

## The Word is Missions

"Missions Involvement Through Embracing the Word"



## ROYAL AMBASSADOR WEEK

November 3-9, 1991

## "Life's greatest score"

By Billy J. Crosby  
Carey Class of '56

It was a thrill to score the winning basket in a high school basketball game.



Crosby

College boys' dormitory.

It happened like this:

In 1952 I signed a grant-in-aid football scholarship at one of our state colleges. This seemed to be a lifetime dream coming true. However, during my first semester there, I received an injury that cut my speed and thus my chances of playing big time football. Therefore, I was transferred to a junior college. My castle seemed to melt and vanish away. I played ball there in 1953 and almost lost all hopes of ever playing in a senior college again.

But one day I. E. Rouse asked if I would be interested in playing for Mississippi Woman's College. I laughed — I could just see the headlines: "The Skirts Lose Again."

Nevertheless, on Aug. 30, 1954, my smiling face appeared on the campus of the now renamed William Carey College along with around 35 other junior college players. We worked out twice a day until school started. By then the boys' dormitory had been completed.

After school started, many of us began to feel that we were unwanted on this previously all-girl campus. It could have been because we stepped on the flowers and shot squirrels with our sling-shots. It also seemed that the preacher boys resented our presence there, and now that I'm a preacher, I can understand why.

However, there was an old gray-haired man who seemed to realize that we were not going to destroy all

the flowers, and that no one could hit the squirrels anyway but Billy Mitchell. This old man worked his way into all our hearts.

One day while riding with my roommate, he asked me where I would go if I were to die. Now I was a Baptist, but I knew deep down inside I wasn't prepared to die. He felt the same way. So we decided to ask Andy Tate to explain to us God's plan of salvation.

The next week Tate came to our room and presented to us God's plan. That day "Scoot" Gambrell and I received Christ as our personal Saviour. We cried the rest of the night. I wrote in my Bible that night these words:

"Tonight, Dear God, I have realized how much my heart could be filled with joy. Thank God, you have come into it."

I walk down the streets of my hometown today, and no one remembers the night I received the Americal Legion Award. They have forgotten the times I scored the winning touchdown and got the crucial base hit. To tell the truth those thrills are not in my heart any longer either. But ever since that day I trusted Christ as my Saviour, 37 years ago, there has been a thrill in my soul, and it is just as real today as it was then.

A few weeks after our conversion experience, God sent revival to the campus. Twenty-two out of 30 football players became Christians. There were over 100 decisions made for Christ that week with not one sermon preached. Tate would read some scripture and then for two or three hours students and faculty members would give their testimonies. This was the greatest outpouring of God's Spirit I have ever felt.

And my prayer today, as one of God's preachers and a graduate of William Carey College, is that God will do it again so that many others will be able to gain life's greatest score.

**Editor's Note:** The Class of '56 will meet this weekend Oct. 31-Nov. 2, along with many others, as William Carey College celebrates Homecoming.

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 31, 1991

Published Since 1877

## WAR IN THE GULF:

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL  
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

## One wife's story

By Debbie Rasmussen

It is Saturday, Dec. 29, 1990. We turn in about 2:30 a.m. The alarm sounds at 4. We have to be at the squadron by 4:30. Jeff is leaving for Saudi.

Our feet hit the floor. There's last minute packing to do and a quiet stiffness in the room. One more hug, glances noted, but no words. We drive to the squadron holding hands, and we pray.

We say good-bye. He's out of the car. I walk around to the driver's side and I watch him head toward the door. He looks back one last time and I say, "I'll see you the end of March."

"The end of March!" he replies.

"Yes!" I say, "The end of March."

"Why do you say that?" he asked.

"Well," I say, "The longest we've ever been apart, because of the military, is three months. And, the Lord knows I can't take any longer than that. So I'll see you the end of March." He smiles, goes inside, there is darkness.

I place the car in gear, and slowly drive past. His face is in the window of the door and we wave one more good-bye. "Oh Lord, I need you! I can't do this alone!" I pray.

I cannot explain the calmness I had driving home. I unlocked the door and wandered in. There were so many emotions. I returned to bed and couldn't sleep.

I got up and walked from room to room praying, "God, what is there for me now? What do you want me to know in all of this?" In the living room, my eyes noted a book on the shelf that was a Christmas gift to us.

I picked it up and said, "Lord, what do you want me to know?" I opened the book and the page heading was "DIRECTION."

Tears filled my eyes and I said, "Yes, Lord, I need your direction!" I read the story and it didn't really speak to me, but then I saw the verse, "Lead me in Thy truth, and teach me: for Thou art the God of my salvation;

on Thee do I wait all the day" (Ps. 25:5).

So I said, "Okay Lord, I'll wait. Lord, I'm just so confused. We thought the Sunday School class was answered prayer. We thought this is where you wanted us serving you."

Then I read the meditation on the page: "God has nothing to gain by misleading those who want to follow him." I cleared my throat, took a deep breath, and said, "Lord, okay. I'll wait and while I wait, you teach me. Keep me open and use me, Lord, help me be strong for Jeff and for his children. And, Lord, what do you have for me that will assure me you're taking care of Jeff, too?"

Immediately, Isaiah 40:31 popped into my mind: "Yet those that wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary."

The Psalms carried me through the next three months. Daily, God showed me things that fit each day with his perfection, with continual reminders of his loving kindness, his faithfulness, and his mercy.

On Jan. 16, war broke and on the 20th, God showed me Psalm 60:12: "Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies." On the 25th, missiles were sent to Israel, and on the 28th God said to me through his word, "But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head" (Ps. 3:3).

I had a hope, in Jesus, that Jeff was coming home. I never knew for sure and the children were very strong through the possibilities too, but God never failed. Even in those times of prayer, when words just weren't there, God understood and assured me he was still with me. Jeremiah 29:12: "Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Praise God!

War continued and so did God's goodness. Jeff called, it was Wednesday, March 6; he said he was coming home! The verse for the day was Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." He promises in Psalms, too, that he is our strength! "God is our refuge and strength, a very pleasant help in trouble" (Ps. 46:1).

From the phone call, I knew it would not be long before we would see each other again. Then, Sunday the 10th, the children and I arrived home from evening service. The phone rang around midnight. I heard his voice saying, "I just wanted you to know, I'm standing on American soil!!" What joy, and so much sooner than we had expected.

The verses during that time were:

1. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart exults, And with my song I shall thank him" (Ps. 28:7).

2. "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man" (Ps. 118:8).

Now to share it all, just to see God's mighty work, his answer to prayer! It was not even the end of March and Jeff was home. Praise the Lord!

In all the time we were apart, Jeff was growing abundantly, as well. His letters were always such an encouragement to me and always glorifying our Father, Jesus Christ. To God be the glory!

So, as I close, let me say, don't forget to tell others about what he is doing in your life. It is worth sharing. May the Lord get all the glory, honor, and praise. For he alone is worthy! "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men." My prayer in what I have learned is, "Lord, although it's over, let me not forget."

Rasmussen is originally from Columbus. She now resides in North Highlands, Calif.

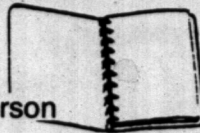


The football team of William Carey College, 1954-55. The team had a record of 5 wins and one loss that season.



# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



## It's big meeting time

The March wind had ceased to blow and the dirt trail was peaceful at last. George King rode his horse to Dilling's Creek Baptist Church where he would be preaching that day to the first meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Association. The date was March 31, 1820.

Much earlier Baptists in the Pee Dee River area of South Carolina sent out several families. Richard Curtis Jr. settled on Cole's Creek north of Natchez and in 1791 they had a church going with Curtis as the pastor. The Spanish government controlled the Natchez area and religious activities were restricted. Indians controlled most of the land and were not favorably impressed by the invasion. Rapidly the USA obtained the Mississippi Territory (Alabama and Mississippi), and by the Treaty of Doaks Stand and the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek wrested it from the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

In 1824 the Mississippi Baptist Convention was organized at Bogue Chitto Church in Pike County, dissolved in 1829, and reorganized on December

24, 1836 at the Washington Church in Adams County. Reports were heard on education, observance of the Lord's Day, Sunday School, Indians, temperance, home and foreign missions, and relations with the North.

The 156th meeting of this convention will be held Nov. 12-13 in Jackson. Few, if any, will ride their horses to this meeting but the reports will be along the same lines — relations with the North being a possible exception. Officers will be chosen, resolutions passed, mission reports heard interspersed with sermons, Bible studies, and inspiring music.

It's the biggest meeting of the year for Baptists and while all 650,000 cannot attend, they can be represented. We now have over 1,900 churches and all should be represented. Lay persons are invited and can attend as elected messengers. If possible, all pastors should be present.

We have a long history, an inspiring record of sacrifice for our institutions and for the missionary activities which reach from Cole's Creek to the Ganges River. Adversities have been

many, strong feelings and discord often, but always the ship has righted herself and continued on course. "We are many but not much," was heard at one meeting which is not entirely accurate. Frank S. Mead, church historian, said of Baptists, "You tried to stamp them out, and all you got for it was to have them leave their stamp on you."

Have we left our stamp on this generation? We face hard questions of sociological, political, and religious interest in our state. How will we vote, act, and interact with all the forces trying to shape us? "Do not model yourselves on this present world, but let your natures be changed, and your minds be made new, so that you may understand what is the will of God, what is good, and pleasing and perfect" (Romans 12:2, Williams).

To whom much is given, much is required. Our cause, our goal, remains the same. Since 1824 a great cloud of witnesses has assembled, watching over our shoulders. We meet for the 156th time to cast our ballots.

## Old-line states feel the pinch of new problems, small budgets

By Marv Knox

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — The oldest and largest state Baptist conventions are facing new problems and smaller budgets.

Many state conventions report they are receiving less money from their churches this year than in the previous year — an almost unprecedented occurrence.

Missouri Baptists expect to finish the year with their first drop in contributions ever.

Kentucky completed its fiscal year Aug. 31 and suffered its first annual decrease since the Great Depression.

Florida Baptists are expecting their first decline in gifts since World War II.

Texas Baptists anticipate their third drop in five years.

A decrease also is expected in Virginia.

And the list likely will grow longer, according to business directors for the 14 oldest and largest state conventions, who recently met and shared negative forecasts.

"Everybody is expecting a decline, except Mississippi," reported Barry Allen, director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention's business division.

"There was not another single person who did not expect to end the year behind last year."

Despite a "terrible month" in September, Mississippi Baptists expect to finish the year close to budget and ahead of last year, said Jennings Orr, administrative assistant for

business for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Agriculture is good in Mississippi, and that helps the budget, he said.

Virginia, however, has felt a backlash in its spendable funds, reported Nat Kellum, treasurer of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Still, Virginia officials anticipate no change in the policy this year, Kellum added. "We're going to live with this formula and the budget process for another year . . . We've given the churches freedom, and we're going to continue to allow them to have freedom."

Texas has dealt with budget difficulties for most of the last decade, since the state's economy went sour, said Roger Hall, treasurer of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

"For several years, we've been operating with a flat budget," Hall said. The convention has modified its spending to match revenue, he added, noting convention managers have operated on as little as 85% of the budget. This year, they are operating on 92%.

The Cooperative Program report in Texas does not give the full picture of income, Hall said. About 70 of the state's 5,400 churches are giving to Texas causes only, and those designated funds are not considered Cooperative Program. When the Texas-designated money is compared to the CP shortfall, "we're actually a

little ahead of working budget funds," he noted.

State convention money managers are working to balance their budgets, Kentucky's Allen said.

"Everybody is looking at downsizing, although few have formal plans," he noted. "Generally speaking, everybody is saying, 'We're not hiring when we have a vacancy, or we're downsizing by attrition.'"

Financial struggles will force state conventions to look at their purpose, Allen stressed. "For the future, are we too big?" he asked. "Do we have too many staff? Are we offering services for which there is no demand?"

"I don't see it's time to go out of business," added Hall of the Texas convention. "I still see the basic reason churches are in business is as great or more pronounced than it is in times of prosperity and affluence."

"There is no diminishing of our calling or the fields in which we minister," he said.

Knox is editor of Kentucky WESTERN RECORDER.

1820 — Two new associations were formed from the Mississippi Association. The Union Association was composed of eight churches north of the Homochitto River, and fourteen churches organized the Pearl River Association. The Baptists were entering a period of remarkable growth.



## We believe in missions

Mississippi is the leading state in per capita giving through the Cooperative Program. In the year ending Sept. 30, Mississippi Baptists had given \$7,674,470 or a 9.49% increase. This was the highest percentage increase of any of the old-line states. The SBC, all states, showed a .36% decrease for the year.

Designated gifts were up in Mississippi by .21% and down by .56% in the SBC. There was a slight decrease in Lottie Moon (Foreign Mission) and a small increase in Annie Armstrong (Home Mission) and state missions. Total mission giving totaled almost \$15 million.

## An open letter to Mississippi Baptists

Never in our lifetime have mission doors been so wide open. The needs in Eastern Europe and Russia are overwhelming; and missionaries are apparently ready to go.

But tragedy of tragedies! Giving through the Cooperative Program is shrinking. Over the last five years the percentage of church undesignated gifts channeled through the Cooperative Program has slipped from 12% to 11.4%. The erosion has not been readily apparent, because actual dollar gifts have increased each year. But now the slowed pace of giving and the sluggish economy have combined to put the state budget planning committee off track.

You may have read in the Baptist Record that our 1992 budget proposal calls for a \$236,000 increase to Southern Baptist Convention causes. That increase is short of the customary one-half of one percent which the committee desired, but felt unable to recommend.

Other state conventions are struggling to keep pace, and some have reduced the amount to SBC. Mississippi actually led all the old-line states during the 1991 fiscal year with an increase of almost 9½% over the previous year. We must always be found leading the way in spiritual things and kingdom service. Could your church help us remain the leader?

If enough churches reported commitments to increase 1992 Cooperative Program giving, perhaps we could get back on track. Will you help? This is not the time to let down. God is opening doors never before opened in our lifetime. Let's lead the way.

— Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and Eddie Hamilton, president, Mississippi Baptist Convention.

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## No street dancing here

MOSCOW, USSR (EBPS) — Baptists in the USSR are not likely to rejoice over the elimination of the Baptist Theological Seminary-Ruschlikon (BTS) from the annual appropriations list of the Foreign Mission Board. Instead, they will feel a deep sense of loss and regret.

Gregori Komendant's statement of support for Ruschlikon clearly contradicts the claim of one FMB trustee, Ron Wilson, a Southern Baptist pastor in California. During the board's October meeting, Wilson was one of the most outspoken opponents to the continuation of Ruschlikon funding. In its report on the trustee meeting in Richmond, Baptist Press quoted Wilson as saying:

"Some European leaders will be very unhappy (about the defunding).

Others will dance in the streets, especially the Soviet Union who regard Ruschlikon as liberal."

Komendant, who has wide-spread support within the Soviet Union, strongly disagreed. He sent the following statement to Karl-Heinz Walter, General Secretary of the European Baptist Federation:

"We share your concern about surprising decision FMB/SBC of defunding the operating budget (of the seminary). The Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon is very important, especially for all European Baptist Unions in this time of reconstruction and unification of Europe. We do believe that the continuing participation (of the) FMB in this project will receive a great appreciation of the Baptists in the USSR."

## U.S., Korean Baptists to open hospital in Iran

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists, in cooperation with Korean Baptists and the Iranian government, are working to open a hospital built 10 years ago in Iran but never put into operation.

The hospital, built by the Iranian government in the city of Piranshahr, became a victim of the financial strain of Iran's 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Now top Iranian officials have approved plans by Korean Baptists to provide initial staffing for the hospital. Southern Baptists will assist the Koreans in securing an estimated \$436,000 in needed equipment.

The hospital project marks the second Southern Baptist involvement this year in work related to Iran. A dozen volunteers traveled to Iran in May with four field kitchens donated by Southern Baptists to open a feeding station at a Kurdish refugee camp. They also trained Iranian Christians to use the equipment in future relief ministries. The feeding program was part of a \$2.4-million Southern Baptist outreach to Kurdish refugees and other victims of the Persian Gulf war.

The hospital will serve the heavily Kurdish city of Piranshahr as well as two refugee camps — each with about 10,000 Kurds — and the surrounding

Azerbaijani region along Iran's northwest border with Iraq.

Piranshahr's 14,000 residents currently have only a first-aid station and ambulance service to the nearest hospital, 60 miles to the north.

No opening date has been set for the hospital, which will have 20 beds. Only heating, air conditioning, and laundry equipment were installed originally in the building. The facility includes barren operating and delivery rooms, an X-ray area, and outpatient clinic.

Another building on the grounds will house medical volunteers.

The clearinghouse for equipment donations by U.S. hospitals, medical suppliers, and other organizations will be the Persian Gulf Response Unit of the Foreign Mission Board. Used equipment will be welcome but it should be of good quality and fully usable, said Tim Brendle, the unit's executive director.

A list of needed equipment is available from the Persian Gulf Response Unit based at the mission board in Richmond, Va. Items on the list range from delivery room scissors to an X-ray machine.

(See IRAN on page 8)

A GIFT WITH  
ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



National Goal:  
\$84 million

Week of Prayer for  
Foreign Missions

December 1-8, 1991

## Parks urges:

## 'Avoid damage to Lottie Moon'

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Foreign Mission Board President R. Keith Parks has urged Southern Baptists to avoid allowing denominational controversies to damage giving to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering at a time of great opportunities for world missions.

Some Southern Baptists, opposed to an action of FMB trustees to defund the 1992 operating budget of the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, have issued statements which Parks said he believes could hurt the offering.

The seminary lost 40% of its 1992 operating budget when trustees voted 35-28 on Oct. 9 to defund its \$365,000 contribution and redirect the funds for

theological needs in Eastern Europe.

Parks affirmed Southern Baptists may designate funds to the seminary or to any other cause they wish. But he urged they do so over and above Lottie Moon contributions, which make up more than 45.7% of the board's budget.

"The cooperative system of support which Southern Baptists have remains the best way to finance missions," Parks said, noting the next-largest source of support is the Cooperative Program, which provides 38.3% of the 1992 budget.

If Lottie Moon suffers, Parks said, the board will fall short of financing

(See PARKS on page 10)

The Second Front Page

# The Baptist Record

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## Ruschlikon issue likely to re-emerge in December

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Elimination of funds for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, likely will be on the agenda of the Foreign Mission Board in December, trustee leaders agree.

Their Dec. 9-11 meeting will be the last opportunity to reverse the Oct. 9 decision eliminating a proposed 1992 allocation of \$365,000 to the Swiss school before the budget becomes effective Jan. 1.

Steve Hardy of Burlington, N.C., chairman of the trustee regional committee which oversees work in Europe, said the issue will be discussed there and "the reaction of European Baptists will be evaluated." But he added: "I would be hesitant to say that will cause the committee to change its mind."

While trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas agrees discussion over Ruschlikon may arise, he said he believes the funding question has been settled. "If I were a betting man, I would bet it would not succeed," he said.

Patterson called the legal ramifications study a "smoke screen" and said neither the results of the study nor the mounting protests from European Baptists is likely to have much influence on FMB trustees.

"There are no legal obligations," he asserted. "We divested ourselves of the property and this (the \$365,000 allocation) is a pure gift. Most of us have checked with our personal attorneys about that."

Patterson referred to the 1989 transfer of the Ruschlikon property, valued at \$17 million to \$40 million, from the FMB to the EBF and added it would be "hard for me to imagine that after the board has given them a \$17 million-to-\$40 million gift and continues to fund their president, that they would file suit."

Additional protests from European Baptists are likely only to increase

trustees' resolve to stick by their decision, he continued. "This board is not going to be impacted much by the protests of a few Europeans," he said.

Some trustees maintain that European Baptist leaders' dismay at the elimination of funds is not shared by all Baptists on the continent.

In an Oct. 14 news story, California trustee Ron Wilson told a Foreign Mission Board newswriter some Europeans will "dance in the streets" when they learn of the defunding, especially many in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union who he said regard Ruschlikon as liberal.

But in a mid-October letter to Ruschlikon administrators, Soviet

Baptist leader Gregori Komendant joined other European critics in condemning the "surprising decisions" to defund seminary's budget.

"They ought to inform the real reason for this decision," Komendant wrote.

"Ruschlikon is very important especially for all European Baptist unions in the time of reconstruction and reunification of Europe," Komendant added. "We do believe that the continuing participation of FMB in this project will receive a great appreciation of Baptists in the USSR."

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

## Golden Gate trustees approve renovation

By Cameron Crabtree  
and James Watters

PORTLAND, Ore. (BP) — In a show of support for meeting student needs, trustees of Golden Gate Seminary approved spending \$500,000 in capital funds to renovate student housing and authorized establishment of a learning Center for Multi-Cultural Ministry.

In a first-ever meeting on the seminary's Northwest Campus in Portland, Ore., Oct. 7-8, the board of trustees noted the fifth anniversary of President William O. Crews Jr.

"Golden Gate's unique setting on the Pacific Rim suggests that its future is tied to the need to minister to ethnic people, especially those from Asia," he said. "It also appears that the future of ministry in the West and around the world may well be tied to the training of ethnic leadership."

In a motion partly aimed at affirm-

ing Cooperative Program giving by local churches, trustees agreed to receive funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as long as all six SBC seminaries are funded. Golden Gate receives about \$3,000 monthly from the fellowship.

Although the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship represents Southern Baptist churches who are dissatisfied with the conservative direction of the SBC, it reports that nearly 78% of funds received from churches by the fellowship are channeled directly to SBC agencies, with more than 19% channeled through state or regional Southern Baptist conventions.

The motion by California trustee Robert Lewis, pastor of Temple Church in Fairfield, prompted remarks from a number of trustees.

(See GOLDEN GATE on page 8)



## Gilberts will serve on coast

James and Dottie Gilbert have retired from 34 years in Ecuador and Panama as SBC missionaries. They will now be serving in the Gulf Coast Association as language missionaries to Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, and Hispanic congregations. The Gilberts pastored several Mississippi churches prior to going to Latin America. (Photo by Keith Morris)





## Coast begins apprentice program

Fred Womack, left, pastor of Diamondhead Church, Gulf Coast Association, reviews information with apprentice Willie Breaux of New Orleans. Breaux is participating in an apprentice program jointly sponsored by the Gulf Coast Association and the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, according to Richard Brogan, consultant. The apprentice program is an opportunity to share information through weekend seminars and visits with pastors and church leaders in the Gulf Coast Association. Subjects for the weekends are taken from the seminary extension course entitled, "The World of a Pastor."

## EBP president offers to resign over flap

By Robert Dilday

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Southern Baptist missionary John Merritt, a 60-year-old native of Mississippi, the first American to serve as president of the European Baptist Federation, offered to resign his EBF post in mid-October after the Foreign Mission Board eliminated funding for the EBF's seminary.

But EBF leaders refused to accept the resignation of Merritt, the first non-European to hold the post, despite their concerns the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, will be crippled by the elimination of the FMB's \$365,000 from the school's 1992 budget.

Meanwhile, the decision by FMB trustees continued to spark criticism on both sides of the Atlantic.

— Baptist leaders in Germany, the Soviet Union, England, Scotland, Sweden, France, Italy, Spain, Finland, and Norway all protested the action.

— Two Southern Baptist missionaries in Spain called the decision by their governing board "a radical measure that has negative influence on our cooperative ministries with Baptists in Europe." The denunciation came in a letter to the EBF from Robert Crider and David Dixon, both professors at the Spanish Baptist Seminary in Madrid.

But FMB trustee leaders held firm to their decision. "This board is not going to be impacted by the protests of a few Europeans," said trustee Paige Patterson of Dallas. Trustee chairman William Hancock said the issue may resurface at the FMB's next meeting but likely won't be reversed (see related story on page 3).

Since 1974 the convention has been affiliated with the European Baptist Federation, made up of 32 Baptist bodies in Europe and the Middle East. Merritt, who has served in Europe since 1964, was elected EBF president during a meeting of the federation's council in September in Varna, Bulgaria.

Walter added that leaders of some EBF-affiliated unions "question the trustworthiness of the FMB, especially in view of pending partnership agreements between the board and European unions."

English Baptists are reassessing a recently negotiated partnership with the FMB, while the status of other missions partnerships between unions and state Baptist conventions is unclear. Among them are agreements between Maryland-Delaware and Latvia, North Carolina and Poland, and Virginia and Hungary. Texas, which maintains a partnership with the European Baptist Convention, is currently discussing additional ties with Estonia and Romania.

The partnership question is likely to be discussed by FMB trustees at their Dec. 9-11 meeting, said Steve Hardy of Burlington N.C., chairman of the trustee committee which oversees work in Europe.

Dilday writes for Virginia RELIGIOUS HERALD.

## Fellowship urges direct funding for seminary at Ruschlikon-Zurich

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (ABP) — Southern Baptists should continue to fund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland, by sending contributions through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, according to Fellowship moderator John Hewett.

The decision Oct. 9 by the Foreign Mission Board to cut all funding for European Baptists' only international seminary "defies credulity," said Hewett, pastor of First Church of Asheville, N.C.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Glenn Hinson says he feels "very pained" to "have been used as an excuse" by trustees of the Foreign Mission Board to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary at Ruschlikon, Switzerland.

The trustees, many of whom have disagreed about the seminary's theological stance, voted 35-28 on Oct. 9 to cut \$365,000 from the seminary's 1992 operating budget.

They felt the seminary showed it was continuing in a "liberal" direction by allowing Hinson, a professor at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., to teach there for four months on sabbatic leave, according to trustee Ron Wilson of California.

Wilson said trustees perceive Hinson, a church history professor, as having liberal views of Scripture.

"I don't regard myself as a liberal," Hinson responded in a telephone interview Oct. 12, describing his beliefs as consistent with "traditional affirmations of the church through the centuries."

Southern Seminary President Roy Honeycutt and the faculty association there each issued statements strongly supporting Hinson after FMB trustees targeted the professor. Honeycutt said the action maligned "the reputation of a renowned Christian scholar."

Numerous European Baptist leaders have reacted with dismay to the trustees' action, saying it calls into question their trust and future relationships with the Southern Baptist mission agency. The FMB had promised funding for the Ruschlikon seminary through 1992.

Wilson, however, said the action will help restore Southern Baptist conservatives' confidence in the Foreign Mission Board, and give them reason to increase their giving to the annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for overseas Baptist work.

"The issue is much broader" than Hinson, said Wilson, a member of the trustee committee overseeing mission work in Europe and a pastor in Thousand Oaks, Calif. Questions about theological liberalism at the seminary have been "a problem among conservative people of our denomination for years," he said.

The Foreign Mission Board started the seminary in the Zurich area in 1948. The European Baptist Federation was founded at the seminary, which also has been a catalyst of other cooperative endeavors by European Baptists. The board transferred ownership of the seminary to the federation in 1989.

FMB President R. Keith Parks said he hopes trustees will reinstate the 1992 allocation during their December meeting. But Wilson said he would be

"surprised to see it voted on again."

Hinson suggested two organizations of Southern Baptist moderates, the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Baptist Alliance, consider adding the Ruschlikon seminary to their budgets.

More importantly, Hinson said, the defunding should stir moderates "to think about what their role is going to be in Baptist mission work around the world. Obviously at the moment, they aren't going to have the tremendous resources the Southern Baptist Convention has had in the past. (But) resources are gradually accumulating (and) the moderates may be able to think a little bigger as time goes on."

News of him becoming embroiled in controversy came as "somewhat of a shock but not completely so," Hinson said. SBC conservatives "have been doing this with other people and with me before. The word 'liberal' is mainly a flag word used by the fundamentalists... the kind of thing which excites a great deal of alarm. And it means anyone who is to the left of them, which of course means almost anybody."

To Wilson, however, "Even the liberals in our denomination consider Glenn Hinson liberal. We're not talking about somebody who's over in the middle. His students know it, his colleagues know it."

Numerous European Baptist leaders voiced strong reactions after receiving news of the defunding.

Karl-Heinz Walter of Hamburg, Germany, general secretary of the European Baptist Federation, described the action as "a breach of trust, not only to the Ruschlikon seminary, but to the EBF and the 32 Baptist unions affiliated with the federation." Recapping reactions of fellow European Baptist leaders, Walter said the FMB vote prompts them to "question the trustworthiness" of the agency for future partnership efforts with European Baptist unions.

Statements opposing the action also were issued almost immediately by leaders of Baptist unions in England, France, Italy, Finland, and Norway.

However, these Baptists do not represent all European Baptists, Wilson contended. "Some European leaders will be very unhappy," he acknowledged. "Others will dance in the streets," especially many in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union who regard Ruschlikon as liberal, he said. They will welcome much-needed funds for theological education efforts in their own countries, he said.

Countering European Baptists now doubting the board's trustworthiness,

Hewett said.

"We'll send every cent of every offering straight from Atlanta to Zurich," Hewett said. "We know now what happens to mission dollars routed through Nashville or Richmond."

Hewett pointed out the missions budget of the Atlanta-based Fellowship already provides some support for the Ruschlikon seminary. The Fellowship also has channeled more than \$850,000 to the FMB this year.

Wilson pointed to the FMB's transfer of the seminary property, which he said is valued as high as \$40 million, to European Baptists. He said he does not understand "how in the world that can be considered bad faith."

Wilson also cited the 1989 seminary transfer agreement between the FMB and EBF and said a number of conservatives believe the Europeans "are not being sensitive to us," especially in their promise to draft a statement of their beliefs. FMB trustees must represent Southern Baptists, Wilson said, and "I'm of the belief that 90% of those people are Bible-believing people." But the European document is vague about "fundamentals of the faith," he said, and could allow liberal views of Jesus and the Bible to be taught at the seminary.

The trustee action is "a strong matter of stewardship," Wilson stated, asking, "How can we in good conscience continue to overlook this?" Previous FMB trustee boards "haven't really approached many of the problems people saw as problems," he said, and many Southern Baptist conservatives consequently "lost confidence in the FMB" and refused even to promote the denomination's annual Christmas offering. The offering accounts for 47% of the funds spent on Southern Baptist work overseas.

The difference between before and now is that you have enough trustees on the board who are concerned about it. Because of our actions, I think there will be more people who will have confidence in us now."

Toalston writes for FMB.

## "He is our peace"

Who God is and what he is proves that we will have trouble in this life because:

He couldn't be our healer if we were never sick.

He couldn't be our provider if we had everything we needed.

He couldn't be our deliverer if we never had difficulties.

He couldn't be our shelter or a very present help in time of trouble if we had no need of help and were never in trouble.

He couldn't be our Saviour if we were not lost.

He couldn't be our strength if we had no weakness.

He couldn't be our song unless we had lost our joy.

He couldn't be our peace if we had no turmoil.

He couldn't be our shield if we had no enemies.

He couldn't be the raiser-upper of our heads without our heads being bowed.

He couldn't be our guide if we knew where we were going.

He couldn't be our fortress or pavilion if we had no need for protection.

He couldn't be our hiding place if we had no reason to hide.

As problems come into our lives, comes also the opportunity of allowing God to be strong in our behalf!

Also, on the other hand we don't have to stay sick because we do have a healer. We don't have to stay needy because we have a provider. We don't have to stay in turmoil because he is our peace. We don't have to stay lost because we have a Saviour. It works both ways.

—Linda Leach  
Greenville



# Southwestern trustees elect chairman; approve strategic plan

By Scott Collins

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees at Southwestern Seminary elected a new chairman, approved a four-year strategic plan for the school, and added a Southern Baptist pastor to the seminary's faculty during their regular meeting Oct. 21-22 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Jim Bolton, a member of First Church of Dallas, was elected to fill the unexpired term of trustee chairman James T. Draper Jr., who resigned from the board to accept the position of president of the Sunday School Board in Nashville.

Trustees unanimously elected Calvin Miller, pastor of Westside Church in Omaha, Neb., as professor of communication and ministry studies and writer-in-residence in the school of theology effective Nov. 1.

Southwestern President Russell Dilday said Miller has written 26 books, is recognized for his expertise in evangelism, pastoral ministry, and preaching, and is a popular speaker on college campuses across the United States.

Trustees also accepted a recommendation by Dilday asking the trustee chairman to appoint an ad hoc

committee to develop objective procedures for appraising the work of the president and the board, designing trustee development and education, and addressing the working relationship between the board and Dilday. Damon Shook, pastor of Champion Forest Church in Houston, will be chairman of the committee.

A special committee of the board of trustees at Southwestern Seminary has been assigned the task of planning and leading future discussions about the role of women in ministry and the seminary's relationship to the issue.

In a statement, Draper said: "In the light of previous discussion about the role of women in Christian ministry, the board of trustees has appointed an ad hoc committee to plan and lead the board in a forum discussion of this issue in a future meeting."

"The basic approach of the committee is going to be to get input from various faculty members who have expertise in this particular area," he said. "We'll be doing research, we'll be reading articles that have already been written."

The issue surfaced when Don

Taylor, a trustee from North Carolina, said the seminary needs to take a stand on the issue.

Trustee Bill Grubbs, a member of First Church of Dallas, cautioned the board about addressing divisive issues such as women in ministry.

"We're going to come up with some answers, and these answers are not going to please a lot of you," Grubbs said. He said it would be "totally unfair to ask one person from our school of theology to come in here and give an exegetical understanding of what the Bible says about women in ministry."

Telling trustees he has studied the issue personally, Grubbs said, "I'm not nearly as hardheaded on this as I once was."

Campbell said he is unable to predict when the forum will occur, but he hopes to have a timetable in place next spring.

Other members of the special committee are: Taylor; Bartis Harper, Mississippi; C.A. Johnson, Arkansas; and Paul Balducci, Alabama.

Collins writes for Southwestern Seminary.



Pastors from around the state attended the Brown-Davis Conference Oct. 24 at Camp Garaywa, Clinton.

## Brown-Davis Conference held

The first Brown-Davis Conference was held Oct. 24 at Camp Garaywa. It was sponsored by the Cooperative Missions Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board under the direction of Ray Grissett and Richard Brogan. The conference was named after T. B. Brown and W. P. Davis, forerunners in National Baptist and Mississippi Baptist cooperative efforts.

Presently there are 17 black churches that belong to the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Emmanuel McCall was presented a plaque for his work with the Home Mission Board and with black churches in our convention. McCall brought the closing message. He mentioned his church in Atlanta which is not a black church nor an Anglo church, "It's just a church."

Eugene Dobbs of MBCB's Ministry Office spoke on helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. He declared that if we could stop where we are in Mississippi — no more births, no more deaths — it would take us 65 years to win Mississippi at our present rate.

Special music was furnished by the Mississippi College BSU choir. Testimonies were shared by several members concerning church growth in their churches.



Richard Brogan, consultant with the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB, presented a plaque to Emmanuel McCall in recognition of his work with the Home Mission Board and with black churches within the convention.

## HMB seeks "preferred" church loans

By Jim Newton

ATLANTA (BP) — Directors of the Home Mission Board adopted new objectives for its church loans division in an effort to become "the preferred lender of all Southern Baptist churches" rather than "the lender of last resort."

Although the objectives were changed to aggressively seek to make loans to qualified churches, the No. 1 priority will always be to provide loans to new and smaller churches, said Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis.

"We will never make loans to big churches at the expense of helping new and smaller churches get loans

for new buildings and sites," Lewis told HMB directors.

Gene Bowman, chairman of the board's church loan committee and director of missions for Flint River Association in Griffin, Ga., said the action should provide upgraded service to churches in new work areas and expanded service in older state conventions.

A consideration in the plan, said Bob Inlow, is to diversify the loan portfolio by aggressively seeking to make loans to qualified churches in all state conventions. Interest earned on the loans is then reinvested so that more money is made available to loan to other churches.

"We want the church loans division

to play a major role in helping start 15,000 new churches by the end of this decade in an effort to reach our Bold Mission Thrust Goal of 50,000 Southern Baptist congregations by the year 2000," said Inlow.

As a result of the new approach, Inlow said the division would be able to offer loans at lower, more competitive interest rates.

HMB directors approved a new formula which allows the division to set the interest rate on church loans at a competitive interest rate based on market conditions and treasury yields. The current standard interest rate for church loans based on this formula is 9.25%.

Newton writes for HMB.

## Lawson will speak at chaplains' banquet

Lowell Lawson will be the featured speaker at the annual banquet of the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains



Association in the Baptist Building Sky Room, Nov. 12, 4:45 p.m.

Lawson serves as director of chaplaincy development for the Home Mission Board. He has served as a missionary in Christian social ministries; adjunct professor of social work, Southern Seminary; and chaplain of the Detroit Police Department.

Lawson created "Mish 'N Airy ... MKs," a cartoon feature for Discovery magazine. He has authored articles in Law and Order and Police Chief. He also wrote a devotional booklet for law enforcement officers entitled Conversations with God.

Richard Brogan serves as the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board consultant to the Mississippi Baptist Chaplains Association. Reservations for the banquet can be made through the Cooperative Missions Department, 968-3800, Ext. 3961.

## House committee approves parochial school aid bill

WASHINGTON (ABP) — After striking a deal with the White House, a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has voted 26-12 to approve a bill that would allow private and parochial schools access to federal tax dollars.

The House Committee on Education and Labor completed its work on the Comprehensive Neighborhood Schools Revitalization Act (H.R. 3320) Oct. 17.

The bill has not yet been scheduled for consideration by the full House.

"To my knowledge, this is the first time in history that the House of Representatives' Education and Labor Committee has voted in favor of parochial aid," said James Dunn, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee.

The bill would provide \$700 million for a range of educational-reform options. Among other provisions, the bill would allow states to spend a portion of this money on so-called "choice" programs that provide federal vouchers for parents to send their children to public, private, and parochial schools.

"At this juncture in American history," Dunn said, "we cannot turn away from quality public education for every child in favor of a scheme that would divert tax dollars to religious institutions."

During the annual meeting of the Baptist Joint Committee Oct. 8, the agency adopted a position statement deploring any attempts to funnel public funds to parochial education.

"This attempt to do indirectly (through vouchers) what cannot be done directly (by direct grants) is constitutionally suspect, bad public policy, and a disingenuous political tactic," the BJC statement says.

The BJC statement notes that the bills leave to the states the decision about their participation in the program, but insists if spending public funds on parochial aid is wrong for the federal government, it is also wrong for the states.

"If this bill becomes law," Walker added, "I hope the states will show similar dedication to principle and courage, and say no to this sleight-of-hand funding scheme."

## Midwestern trustees face challenge of 100% support

By Brenda J. Sanders

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — The desire for trustees to take a leadership role in financially undergirding the ministry of Midwestern Seminary was a recurring theme during the board's semi-annual meeting, Oct. 21-22.

The challenge for trustees to demonstrate support for the institution came from the administration and from trustees themselves.

"Trustees should participate 100% in the annual fund," Midwestern President Milton Ferguson told the board, referring to the basic fund which provides the seminary with financial support for various projects and needs.

Trustees also heard a report that enrollment figures at the seminary have reflected a slight increase this fall in comparison with the fall of 1990. According to the seminary's registrar, Royce Ann Collins, 463 students were enrolled in Midwestern classes by Oct. 1, as compared to 457 students enrolled by the same date last year.

In addition, the seminary has noted an 18% increase in the number of new students on campus this fall, compared with last year's statistics. The seminary enrolled 90 new students this fall, compared to 74 new students in the fall of 1990.

Sanders writes for Midwestern Seminary.





Women of the Northwest Association wore dresses representing fashions worn by women from 1841 to the present.

## Northwest celebrates 150 years

By Guy Henderson

The Northwest Association met for its annual meeting and celebrated its 150th anniversary. Six churches met in 1841 and formed the group. It has grown from six to 56 churches and from a \$4,000 budget to over \$300,000.

The history was presented in a pageant, written by Anne McWilliams, associate editor of the *Baptist Record*, with the help of Indy Whitten, prayer ministry coordinator for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The pageant was performed Monday, Oct. 21, before a packed congregation. Costumes and banners were used to mark the historical event. Earl Kelly, retired MBCB executive director, closed the assembly with an address on missions.

The association also honored Erv and Ruth Brown. Ervin has been the

director of missions for 30 years, and Ruth has served as office manager for 20 years. The association (just south of Memphis) operates its own camp-retreat center under the management of Aaron Lewis and has full summer camp programs for boys and girls. For the past 15 years, the group has maintained a Bold Mission project in Indiana and other northern states. This year 16 churches and 38 people were involved in that ministry.

The association has 19,832 resident members and baptized 717 people this year. Brown stated, "We are involved in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus." P. J. Scott, Olive Branch pastor, has served for two years as moderator and Bob Maddux, Coldwater pastor, was elected as moderator for the coming year.



Ervin and Ruth Brown were congratulated for 30 and 20 years of service to the Northwest Association.

## Baptists differ on evangelism styles

By Pat Cole

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Although Southern Baptists generally agree about what constitutes a quality pastor, they differ widely about styles of evangelism, according to a survey conducted by Southern Seminary.

The Louisville, Ky., school's survey found those who held the most literal views on Scripture preferred pastors who practice a confronting style of evangelism.

About 3,200 Southern Baptist clergy and laity in eight southeastern states responded to the survey funded by Lilly Endowment Inc. in Indianapolis.

"Some Southern Baptists prefer a more nurturing style of evangelism while others have a more aggressive, confronting style in their expectations," said researcher Larry McSwain, Southern Seminary provost.

"That difference can largely be explained by the theological differences that have been at the root of our controversy."

Most of those who preferred the most confronting style of evangelism said they view the Bible as the "inspired Word of God without error not only in matters of faith, but also in historical, scientific, geographic, and other secular matters." About 41% of the respondents chose this view of Scripture.

Thirty-eight percent said they view

the Bible as "the inspired, authoritative Word of God without error in all that it says about faith and morals." Another 17% chose to describe the Bible as "the inspired Word of God and its basic moral and religious teachings are clear and true, even if it does contain some human error." Fewer than five percent preferred to describe the Bible as "a useful guide for Christians in their search for basic moral and religious teachings."

Although belief about the Bible has dominated much of the debate in the 12-year controversy among Southern Baptists, the issue seems to have little effect on denominational loyalty. Southern Baptists of differing opinions about the Bible rated denominational commitment as a "major asset" for a pastor. Overall, the respondents ranked denominational loyalty as the fifth on a list of 14 pastoral characteristics. "This suggests that it will be difficult for pastors to lead churches into alternative structures when the denominational loyalty is as high as it is reflected in this survey," McSwain said. "The denomination is probably going to hold together."

Southern Baptist young people are receiving little encouragement to consider a call to the ministry, a study of Southern Baptists revealed.

Interviews with persons identified in the study as "quality pastors" found

few of them were taking intentional measures to nurture persons toward a call to ministry.

"We saw pastors of large churches who were saying we are reluctant to encourage anyone to enter the ministry in the circumstances in which we find ourselves," said researcher John Dever, Southern Seminary professor of church and community.

The pastorate has become a "besieged role," added McSwain. Growing societal pressures, greater demands to respond to personal and family crises, the denominational crisis, the high level of forced terminations, and the moral failures of high profile ministers have contributed to ministers' reluctance to encourage young people to pursue a ministry career, said McSwain.

Few of the pastors said they regularly issue special invitations for young persons to enter full-time Christian service, Dever reported.

Unless a "renewed emphasis" is placed on nurturing persons toward a call to ministry, Southern Baptists could face a shortage of pastors, Dever warned. The Annuity Board projects nearly 17,000 persons enrolled in its annuity program will reach 65 in the next 15 years. A large percentage of those future annuitants are pastors.

Cole writes for Southern Seminary.

## Faith, friends support survivors of massacre

By Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP) — Faith in God and strong church and community support systems are enabling survivors of the worst mass murder in U.S. history to rise above the ten minutes of indescribable horror in a small central Texas town, according to local Baptist leaders.

Debbie Curl was eating with her parents at the Luby's Cafeteria in Killeen when George Hennard smashed his truck into the cafeteria and indiscriminately shot people for about ten minutes.

"He (Hennard) killed the girl in front of me and then fired at my head from what appeared to be about a foot away," said Curl, who with her husband and two children are members of East Side Church in Killeen. "I was praying that he would kill me and spare my parents, and I asked God to take care of my children. I wasn't afraid to die, because I knew I was going to heaven if I died."

When the gunman fired point blank at Curl's head, the bullet struck the billfold of her father who was lying across his wife and daughter, trying to protect them. It ricocheted off the billfold and struck Curl's mother in the foot, but they all survived, along with four other members of East Side Church.

"My mother and I agreed that God has something special for us to do," said Curl. "You don't know how glad I was to be a Christian."

"We're relying on God to help us overcome the psychological problems."

Among the 23 people killed by the gunman were two members of Southern Baptist churches: Juanita Williams of First Church of Belton, and Patricia Carney of Trinity Church in Harker Heights.

Williams was a volunteer in the church office, and Carney was elementary curriculum director for Killeen schools.

The Bell County Association disaster van was called to the scene to provide food and beverages for about 500 media people and law enforcement and other officials during the afternoon and night following the tragedy, said David Cannon, director of missions for Bell Association.

First Church of Killeen, held a public prayer time on Friday following the disaster, and hosted an area-wide memorial service on Saturday.

"The community has rallied to the support of everyone involved," said James D. Towers, pastor of First Church. "There is a real support system here."

Scott writes for Baptist General Convention of Texas.

## HMB appoints Roatens to Migrant Center

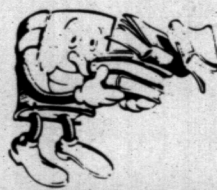
Paul and Betty Roaten have been approved by the Home Mission Board, SBC, for appointment as home missionaries to work in the Migrant Mission Center in Hope, Ark.

For the past 16 months, he has been pastor of the Ethel Church at Ethel, Miss. The Roatens had previously served almost 20 years as missionaries in Uruguay.

He left Ethel Oct. 15 and she will follow in December, as she is teaching Spanish in the county schools in Attala County and will finish the first semester before leaving.

Their new address is Migrant Mission Center, Rt. 4, Box 1889, Hope, AR 71801.

Honesty is still the best policy, but many people are content with second best.



## Book reviews

**FROM TIME TO TIME** by Thomas B. Walden (paperback, 24 pp., \$2, available from the author, 1119 Rockett Drive, Jackson, MS 39212; phone 372-7440). Tom Walden has written this book of memories, much of it about his youth in Newton and Leake counties. His purpose in writing, he explains, is "that the younger generations could see where we have been and . . . who we were, and how we found our way through life . . ." (He has a daughter, four grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren).

In the past, he says, he didn't have as many luxuries, but he had something more precious. "We had more time for family life. We did the chores together. There was a closeness that things cannot replace."

Walden, son of a Methodist preacher-farmer-school teacher, was born north of Chunky. He became a Baptist and for 38 years served as an usher at Van Winkle Church, Jackson. He participated in volunteer mission projects in Ohio.

One childhood pastime he describes in the book is sliding down a pine straw hill on barrel staves. There had been a barrel factory in Chunky in the 1800s, so staves were plentiful.

He married Margie Simmons of Newton County on Christmas day, 1936. "I worked in a CC camp to make money to get married on." (Farming didn't pay well.) In 1940, they moved to Jackson and he got a job selling for a cake and candy company. "Necessity is mother of invention," he said recently. "I found out I could sell, and I've been selling various things ever since."

One sight Walden said he will never forget happened in the spring of 1932 in Leake County. His father, who had almost died with the flu, was unable to plant his crop. One morning the family looked out across the fields and saw the neighbors planting the crop for them.

The book does have imperfections, such as some misspelled words, but its nostalgic stories include some good homespun philosophy. Best selections are about a foot-log that formed a bridge to a neighbor's house. Walden wrote, "I think of the need for human bridges across the world."

Walden has also written two other books, *Life's Reflections*, a book of poetry (one of the poems is his delightful "Buttermilk Song") and *Light My Candle*, Walden's comments on some scripture passages. — AWM



# HOUSETOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

October 31, 1991

HOUSETOPS is a supplement to the **Baptist Record** and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## A Pastor's Account: Missions in Zimbabwe

BY JOSEPH W. RATCLIFF  
COLLINS, MS

In my wildest childhood dreams, I never dreamed of going to Africa. Preaching the gospel in Africa could have been in my imagination.

When I, at thirty, answered God's call to preach; I could not even spell "Missions", much less know about the Great Commission. It was at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary that my heart was stirred and challenged for World Missions. Thanks to classroom lectures, "Missionary Days", and so forth, my commitment became reality. Through the 37 years of pastoring my commitment has matured.

So, when the call came to go to Zimbabwe, Africa, as the first part of a three year partnership my interest was quickened. I worked through the excuses and made the decision to go. From there God provided all resources that were needed for the trip.

My assignment (I believe it was of God.) was to work with missionaries Elbert and Patty White in farmwork near Rusape. Two - three day meetings were conducted at Kushinga Baptist Church on a tobacco farm and Manda Fellowship on a spice farm. The "Jesus" movie was shown and the gospel was preached. Most of the 200 - 250 people living on the farms sat on the ground to participate. Many had never heard the gospel preached. Many accepted Christ as their Savior and confessed him as Lord.

The highlight of the experience was listening to men, women and children on their knees in the dark openly and freely praying the prayer of salvation. Neither of these worship groups has a building for worship and study.

There are many farms around Rusape and in Zimbabwe with no evangelical work and witness. It was a great joy to preach and have people respond positively to the gospel. Yet, my heart was saddened when I realized the need to disciple these new converts. They need further help and the Whites with worship leaders will continue to work.

The first trip by eight preachers was fine, but it was about like one drop in a giant oil tank. It is my prayer that many more preachers and lay persons will join in this partnership during the coming three years.

HT

**Note:** The above is one of a series of testimonies concerning Mississippi Baptist involvement in the Zimbabwe Missions Partnership. Others will follow.

## Preaching Conference

December 2-3, 1991

Broadmoor Baptist Church,  
787 E. Northside Drive, Jackson



James Hightower



James Pleitz



Jerry Oswalt



James White

**James Hightower** - consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

**James Pleitz** - pastor, Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas

**Jerry Oswalt** - vice-president of academic affairs and professor of preaching, Florida Baptist Theological College

**James White** - consultant, Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville

Music by **R. L. and Beth Sigrest** - music evangelists, Yazoo City

**Purpose:** To provide an indepth workshop on Bible preaching, focusing on preparation and delivery and practical helps for weekly sermon preparation.

**Finances:** The only cost for this conference will be your personal expenses for travel, lodging, and meals.

**Schedule:** Monday, December 2

1:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m. - 9:05 p.m.

Tuesday, December 3

8:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

1:10 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

## WHERE ARE THE SHEPHERDS?

BY INDY WHITTEN,  
PRAYER MINISTRY COORDINATOR

No matter what the place on the globe, there is a shortage of spiritual leaders. Jesus spoke of the peoples of the world as "scattered sheep without a shepherd."

In John 4:35 Jesus told his followers to lift up their eyes and look on the fields.

Look at Mississippi with 2,638,000 people scattered over the state. 40 percent of these people are lost. Many have no church near them and nobody has ever spoken to them about Jesus. The shepherds are so few.

Look at our nation, with its cities and countryside overflowing with unchurched people without spiritual guidance. The Home Mission Board seeks to keep the needs before us, but they are always looking for more shepherds. Why are there so few?

Look at the world—not the "waiting world" because most of the people don't know WHAT they are waiting for or needing. The Foreign Mission Board has so many more requests than can be filled. At least half of these requests are for church planters.

Lift up your eyes of compassion and LOOK! But do more than just look. Ask "What can I do to supply the shepherds that the world is needing? John 9:38 says, "Pray that the Lord of the har-

*continued on back*



# Lay Missions Conference

November 11, 1991

First Baptist Church, Jackson

1:00 p.m.

## Missions Fellowships and Seminar (open to everyone)

- Agri-Missions
- Educational Missions
- Church Renewal
- Hams
- Campers on Mission
- Construction
- Medical-Dental
- Cooperative Program Champions

### Seminar: Volunteers in Missions

3:00 p.m.

### Ministry in Your Marketplace

Featuring: Tillie Burgin



Tillie Burgin

5:00 p.m.

### Missions Banquet and Program

Cost: \$7.50

Featuring: Dennis Swanberg



Dennis Swanberg

Deadline for reservations is November 6, 1991.

(Preschool provisions will be provided 1:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. upon prior notification to the Brotherhood Department. No meal service will be provided in the preschool center.)

### Program Co-Sponsors

Brotherhood Department • Cooperative Missions Department • Woman's Missionary Union

#### Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Bill Causey, Executive Director

Eugene Dobbs, Administrative Assistant for Ministry

A Ministry of the Cooperative Program

"Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus"

### Registration Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ dinner reservations at \$7.50 each.

(Make checks payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board)

( ) I will need preschool care (ages birth to 5 years) \_\_\_\_\_

Names and birthdates of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to: Missions Banquet, Brotherhood Department

P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Share Heritage and Hope



Embrace God's Word

## Through Baptist Doctrine Study THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

9:00 to 1:00

March 16

North Winona  
FBC McComb

March 19

Mississippi  
College  
FBC Hernando

March 17

Faith, Starkville  
William Carey  
College

March 20

Delta State, BSU  
Clarke College

March 18

Blue Mt. College  
FBC Gulfport

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Department,  
MBCB  
968-3800, ext. 3887

### The world has moved to America

America is becoming more and more ethnically diverse. And with ethnic diversity comes religious diversity. Hundreds of religions compete for the loyalty of Americans today.

How can Christians communicate with and witness to followers of these religions? *A Christian Response to World Religions*, a six-session Equipping Center module, examines the doctrines and practices of major world religions active in America today—Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism—and of minor East Indian and Oriental religions. Methods are suggested for witnessing to followers of each non-Christian religion.

Be prepared to encounter non-Christian influences in our society as world religions grow. Study *A Christian Response to World Religions* (item 715-01), available from the Baptist Book Stores or from the Customer Service Center; 127 Ninth Avenue, North; Nashville, TN 37234; 1-800-458-BSSB.

**DISCIPLESHIP  
TRAINING**

HOUSE TOPS



## Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Fall Conferences

\*\*\* NOVEMBER 9, 1991 \*\*\*

9:00 - 3:00

**Area 9** (Pearl River, Gulf Coast, Greene, George, and Jackson Associations) Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian

✦ **Highlights:** Records Management, Newsletter Preparation, Secretarial Ministry, MBSA Update, and Certification Information

✦ **Coordinated by** Gary Daymond, Gulf Coast Association Secretary; Area 9 MBSA Representative

For further information contact:

Gary Daymond, 832-4311 or  
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries  
Department, 968-3800, extension 3905.

\*\*\* NOVEMBER 21, 1991 \*\*\*

8:30 - 3:00

**Areas 5 and 6** (Sharkey-Issaquena, Yazoo, Warren, Hinds-Madison, Rankin, Leake, Scott, Smith, Neshoba, Newton, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, and Clarke Associations) Camp Garaywa, Clinton

✦ **Highlights:** The Joy of Team Ministry (for study course credit) to include the secretary as a part of the team, computer information, counselling helps, holiday ideas

✦ **Coordinated by:** Mary Ray, Rankin Association secretary; Area 5 MBSA Representative

For further information contact:

Mary Ray, 939-2182 or  
Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries  
Department, 968-3800, extension 3905

*Sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB, and Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association*



## Annual Conference of Mississippi Baptist Ministers' Wives

**First Baptist Church, Jackson**  
**Monday, November 11, 1991**  
**1:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.**

❖ Inspiration, Fellowship, Personal Growth, Information and Support for the Minister's Wife!

❖ There is no cost for this conference.

❖ Child care will be available for preschoolers on a limited basis.

Please schedule this upon registration.

### Program Personnel



Joy Yates

JOY YATES, wife of First Baptist Church, Yazoo City, pastor; special worker for Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, MBCB • *"It's A Great Life! (If You Don't Weaken)"*



Jo Ann Leavell

JO ANN LEAVELL, wife of New Orleans Theological Seminary president; author and speaker • *"Don't Miss the Blessing"*

### Registration Form

Complete the registration form and return to Julius C. Thompson, Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Husband's Position \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Association \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of children you will bring: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Outreach Bible Study ...

is an eight-week evangelistic Bible study designed to help lost persons come to know Christ personally as they discover Bible answers to important life needs. Outreach Bible Study targets adults, college students and youth, because they represent the largest group of unsaved people. The approach of Outreach Bible Study is to take to the individuals where they live, work, study, or play the message of God's salvation for them.

The first step to begin an Outreach Bible Study group is to help the church family identify that people need to be reached for Christ. This mentality is more than just inviting them to come and hear within our church building. It is the philosophy that we must go and tell the good news of Jesus Christ.

Once the church agrees that it must get outside of the four walls of their church to reach lost people, workers need to be enlisted and trained. Training for Outreach Bible Study leaders is provided by the Sunday School Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, or by purchasing Outreach Bible Study Planning and Promotion Guide from the Baptist Book Store. This guide provides a training session agenda.

As you enlist workers you would also want to provide the Outreach Bible Study materials for them. There are specific teachers and pupils material for adult, college students, and youth Outreach Bible Study leaders. The materials include a teacher's book, pupil's book and the Gospel of Luke scripture portion. These items may be purchased from the undated literature order form.

The next step is to select the time and place for the Outreach Bible Study group. It is suggested that this Bible study meeting be away from the church. Locations that have successfully been used in Mississippi include the workplace, the back porch of a home,

and the community room in an apartment complex. Any location where a leader can have at least one lost person to meet with them is an ideal place to conduct an Outreach Bible Study.

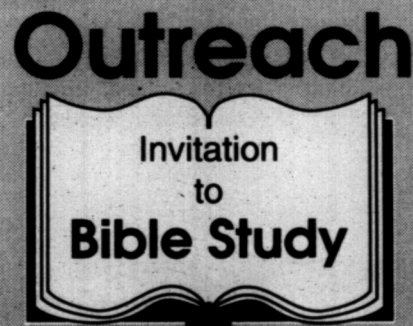
Once the time and place has been selected, the church needs to find prospects for the Bible study group. These may be discovered through identifying lost individuals on your church's prospect file or to conduct a people search in the community to identify prospects.

Finally, the time is right to conduct the Outreach Bible Study. The numbers in the study may not be large, yet each individual becomes significant because he is in search of the answers to life's most important question—What is my relationship to Jesus Christ?

All of this planning and preparation needs to be undergirded by prayer. The church needs to regularly pray for the Outreach Bible Study process—the discovery of prospects, the enlistment of leaders, and the location for the study.

The previously mentioned planning and promotion guide gives detailed help in establishing Outreach Bible Study groups. Leadership training, materials, and other support is provided from the Sunday School Department.

Outreach Bible Study—one way of taking the ageless truth of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.



**Where are the Shepherds?** *continued from front page*  
vest will send forth laborers..."

Prayer multiplies the number of missionaries and sends them out empowered. Prayer adds to the effectiveness of those already on the fields of the world. Prayerlessness could subtract from the work that needs to be done because the missionaries are so few. Prayerlessness could divide concentration and leave a few missionaries with needs too great for their physical strength and abilities.

Where are the shepherds? Could their absence be because Christians have failed to pray??

HT

## Annual Convention Bivocational Breakfast Fellowship

Wednesday, November 13, at 7:00 a.m.

during the State Convention

at Shoney's Restaurant on High Street

✦ Complimentary Breakfast

✦ Elect State Fellowship Officers

✦ Hear reports of our Lord's work from across the state

**No Pre-Registration!**

(sponsored by Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries)

## SUIT PROJECT

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**COST: \$130.00 per suit**

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Baptist Men's groups, individuals, churches, etc., can send their gifts payable to:

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Designate on your check: *Suit Project*



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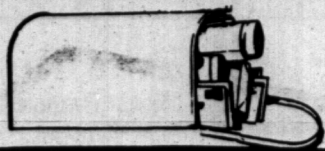
## Preaching Conference Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH POSITION \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
CHURCH PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the form and send to Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department, P O Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 so that adequate preparation can be made.

For further information call Julius Thompson, 968-3800, ext. 3908.





# Letters to the editor

## "Thank you" from Bolivia

Editor:

Let me begin this letter by saying, "Thank You" for all the SBC, Mississippi Baptist Convention, Calhoun County Baptist Association, and New Hope Baptist Church in Vardaman have meant to us in our Christian life. If it were not for the prayers and giving of thousands of you, we could not serve here in Bolivia.

For the past three years we have worked with a group of Indians in eastern Bolivia called Ayoreo (i-yo-re-o). Fifty years ago they were uncivilized people running loose in the jungle. Almost all have now settled in camps in the eastern part of Bolivia. In the last three years we have seen God work and have a chapel led by an Ayore pastor and five baptized members. We also have a chance to reach a yet uncivilized group of the same tribe now living in Paraguay but have left there and are now in Bolivia. About 40 families are camped on the border of Bolivia and Paraguay and have sent word that they want to live in a camp. Civilization is moving in around them and bringing with it all of its sickness and sin. This group has never heard of the love of God in Jesus Christ. They know nothing of the good news of Jesus Christ for them.

I could talk on and on about the work the Lord is doing here, but that is not the reason for my writing. On Aug. 12, 1991, I had my 40th birthday. Of all the Mississippi Baptists, I did not receive a single birthday card. That I can say, as a native Mississippian, hurt. But still that is not the reason for the letter. I am not asking for any birthday cards. I think this is a sign, I had to ask myself, could it be we are losing sight of missions and mission work?

Please pray for us as we try to reach out to this group who can at times be very hostile. Last year we had an opportunity to make contact but before we could get everything ready, they returned to the jungle. How many died since last year without hearing the gospel? Pray that God will help us deliver the good news to all who need to hear, rich and poor, homefolks and foreigners, civilized and uncivilized.

Kenneth Bailey  
Cajon 3168  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia

## Racism alive and well

Editor:

Two commendations are due: (1) to Rick and Pat Jones for their letter "Would Jesus Turn Them Away?" in the October 17 issue, and (2) to you for having the courage to print their honest and insightful letter. Unfortunately, racism and social class distinction are alive and well in our churches. Race Relations Sunday is a joke, and most pastors hesitate to address the issue for fear of offending some of their flock.

What did Jesus say on the subject? As usual, he taught by example. His deliberate association with and ministry to the Samaritan woman on her own turf says a great deal. I suppose the well became her "church." Remember her surprise as she exclaimed, "... for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans?" Jesus' association with publicans, sinners, and other social outcasts evoked strong criticism from the religious leaders of his day.

So, Rick and Pat, don't worry about criticism when you are doing the right thing "... for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

Jerry L. Young  
Boyle

## Needs teachers

Editor:

Greetings from Korea Christian Academy (KCA) is the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We have had a good beginning of the 1991-92 school year and are looking ahead to 1992-93 and beyond, especially in the area of teacher recruitment.

We need help in recruiting teachers for KCA for the 1992-93 school year. The target group is primarily teachers who may have early retirement (but not restricted to them) and would like to live overseas for an extended period of time, preferably two years or more, as indicated. Faculty needed for 1992-93 and beyond are as follows:

Kindergarten teacher — one year  
Third/fourth teacher  
Social Studies teacher (grades 7-12) — one year  
English teacher (grades 7-12) — one year  
ESL teacher (all grades)

If someone is interested in enriching his/her life in an overseas ministry, preferably as a volunteer — housing, utilities, airfare, passport, and visa expenses furnished — at a small Christian foreign school, with small classes, motivated students, supportive, caring community, please write me at the address below.

James L. Wootton  
Headmaster  
Korea Christian Academy  
210-1 O-Jung Dong  
Taejon, Korea  
(300-210)

## Man does look at appearance

Editor:

Speaking from the male point of view, you have silenced any comments from me regarding dress codes for men — especially with the use of the hairy garment worn by John the Baptist. However, speaking from the female point of view, with much scripture to back me up, I believe women do have a scriptural dress code. It should not have to be debated and should never be an issue at church to the point of division, but it should be taught in our girls' SS and discipleship classes. Then, you can believe the Holy Spirit will convict and persuade.

Too much is written to ignore an important part of our Christian make up: 1. — an abomination for women to wear men's clothing — Deut.; 2. modest apparel — New Testament; 3. no gold or excessively rich ornaments; 4. the wild man in the tombs was (when healed) clothed and in his right mind.

God does look on the heart to judge the motives; but I am convinced that he sees the outward appearance and judges our obedience. We have a responsibility to interact socially, and a responsibility to dress modestly because man does look on the outward appearance. Too often that scripture is divided — giving emphasis only to the part that leaves us free to dress like heathens.

Loretta Jeter  
Brandon

## FMB has responsibility

Editor:

As a Southern Baptist and as a pastor of a church that gives 20% to the Cooperative Program, and this past year gave a record offering to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, I cannot allow the recent decision of the FMB to defund the Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland to go without comment.

My understanding is that there are several documents, dating from 1978 to 1988, that agree to fund the seminary through 1992. If this is true, they are obligated to continue that funding, regardless of concerns over theological differences.

May I remind the FMB that Joshua was tricked by the Gibeonites to enter into a treaty which was against the commandment of the Lord. When the matter was made known, Joshua remained bound to the treaty — a testimony to his integrity (Joshua 9:1-27).

The Foreign Mission Board has a responsibility to maintain integrity and keep its word. If it fails to follow through with such a basic principle in this matter, it is entirely doubtful that they can be trusted in other matters as well.

I implore the FMB to demonstrate before this church, our convention, and to the watching world, that they will keep their word.

Walter M. Blackman  
First Church  
Marion

## Rally to support Ruschlikon

Editor:

It came as a real shock to read that the trustees of the Foreign Mission Board had decided to leave the European Baptist Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland out of the 1992 budget. My husband and I were associated with that institution, he as a faculty member, for more than twenty years and know what it has accomplished. The defunding was done in spite of the fact that when European Baptists assumed responsibility for the school, the trustees committed to finance it as usual through 1992 and after that on a decreasing scale. Now that promise, that pledge, is being broken so what will European Baptists think of the SBC?

At many European Baptist meetings I have heard program personnel announced and officers of the national conventions as well; included in the introductions of many was the fact that the person had attended the Ruschlikon Seminary. Pastors, teachers, missionaries, and other kinds of servants of the Lord have gone out from the school. I believe it could be said that it has become, to use an overworked expression, the "crown jewel" of Baptists of that continent. Even before there was freedom in Eastern Europe, some students were able to come from each of those countries, except two, to both the regular school terms and the special summer session provided especially for them, SITE. An international seminary has a special attraction and usefulness and students were there from every continent in the world.

It seems evident, however, that the trustees of the SBC Foreign Mission Board are aiming at bringing about the demise of the school. Other steps were taken earlier. How will the recent action affect our missionaries connected with the seminary as their work and witness is undercut, and beyond them our missionaries worldwide whose anxiety will increase because of not knowing what will happen, through similar actions of the Foreign Mission Board trustees, to their own service for the Lord? Working under such a tension would be very difficult.

I hope, and pray to that end, that those who know the value of the Ruschlikon seminary will rally to its support.

Mrs. John Allen Moore  
Brownwood, Texas

## Praying to measure up

Editor:

Several months ago, you published an article about Jayson and Calvary Baptist Church, Greenville. Entitled "Jayson: A True Love Story," it was a beautiful, heart-wrenching account of a group of people acting in a Christ-like way — of Rick and Pat Jones, Dwight Fortenberry, pastor, and an entire congregation who accepted a young black man with AIDS into their fellowship.

I watched your "Letters" column for reactions from Christians throughout the state, but I don't recall a single letter. Perhaps they've been busy with their own similar ministries, or maybe they've been praying fervently, as I have, that given the same opportunity they and their churches would measure up to the Lord's teachings.

Mary M. Jones  
Yazoo City

## Increase missions gifts

Editor:

It grieves me that at the upcoming state convention it is going to be recommended that the state not increase giving to missions by one-half percent. Just this past week I received a packet from the Stewardship Department encouraging our church to increase our Cooperative Program giving yearly through the year 2000. This is such a wonderful idea that we voted as a church to do that two years ago. Why can't the state follow suit? Has the Baptist Building forgotten that if you commit that one-half percent to missions you can trust God to meet the need? I appreciate the fact that jobs are trying to be saved and people do need raises but God knows all that. How can the leadership of our state ask our churches to sacrifice if they are not willing to do the same?

We are a small church. Recently, we approved a budget of some \$70,000. We are not guaranteed that the money will come in but we are trusting God to send us what we need. I believe with all my heart that God can meet our needs. I also believe he can meet the need for our state to increase the gifts to mission causes by one-half percent. What happened to trusting in God?

Everett Childers  
New Prospect Church  
Oxford

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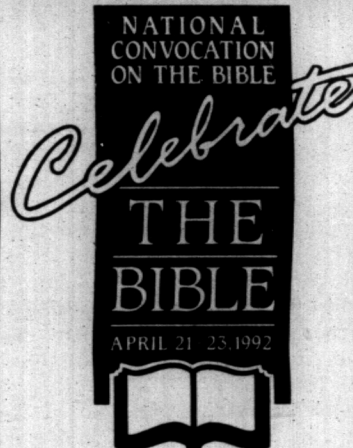
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James T. Draper, Jr. Dick Lincoln  
Fisk Jubilee Singers Keith Parks  
Joel Gregory

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\$60.00 registration fee

Sponsored by the Sunday School Division, BSSB, Harry M. Piland, Director. Sessions will be held in the Nashville Convention Center.

For more information, write to:  
NCOB Coordinator, MSN 173  
Sunday School Board  
127 Ninth Avenue, North  
Nashville, TN 37234



## Three associations welcome new directors of missions



Dorsett



Abel

Three new directors of missions have been appointed to serve in Leake, George/Greene, and Tishomingo associations.



Henry

W. Joseph Abel began duties in Leake Association Aug. 1. The Belzoni native previously served as pastor of Ora Church, Collins, and is a graduate of St. Leo College, St. Leo, Fla., and New Orleans Seminary.

## Clarke College week emphasizes missions

Clarke College will hold a traditional "Missions Emphasis Week" Nov. 5-7, under the theme "Missions — The Reasons, The Responsibility, The Reality."

Guest personalities for the week will include the Cross Section drama group from MC's BSU; Dennis Jones, pastor of State Boulevard Church, Meridian; Lloyd Lunceford, former missionary and presently BSU director at University of Southern Mississippi.

Prayer breakfasts will be held daily at 7 a.m. in the campus cafeteria, led by Eddie Ruddick and Bryan Burt of Clarke. The week will also feature daily chapel services at 11 a.m. in the fine arts building on campus; and student-led group studies, 6 p.m. Nov. 5 and 7 in the fine arts building.

## GOLDEN GATE

From page 3

"We depend on the Cooperative Program and I don't know why we can't publicly say that," said Wayne Woods, pastor of First Baptist Church in Alma, Ga., in support of not accepting the money.

"As long as they (the fellowship) are not putting strings on the money they send us we ought to take it," said Robert Zinn, pastor of Immanuel Church in San Bernardino, Calif.

Cecil Pearson, retired executive director of California Baptist Foundation from Fresno, voiced concern for local church autonomy: "I'm uncomfortable with accepting the money because of the philosophical problem, but it makes me more uncomfortable when we're saying to the local church we don't honor your sovereign right."

"Trustees approved a plan which continues to welcome funds from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship as long as all six SBC schools are receiving some funding; should the president be notified in writing and obtain verification of total defunding of one school, further receipts from the CBF are to be escrowed until the full board of trustees has given further consideration to the matter."

Crabtree is director of public relations for Golden Gate Seminary; Waters is editor of the Northwest BAPTIST WITNESS.

Abel presently serves on the joint administrative committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

John W. Henry will begin duties as director of missions in George/Greene Association Oct. 28. He currently serves as pastor of Barton Church, Lucedale. The Louisiana native is a graduate of Clarke and William Carey colleges, and New Orleans Seminary. Henry has served as president of the pastors' conference and the executive and evangelism committees of the Mississippi Convention Board.

Tishomingo Association welcomes Roger S. Dorsett as director of missions, beginning Nov. 1. Dorsett serves as pastor of Calvary Church, Emerado, N.D. The Pontotoc County native is a graduate of Mississippi College, and has studied at Southern, Southwestern, and Golden Gate seminaries. He has served as director for the Florida Baptist Children's Home, and director of missions for Monroe Association.

## IRAN

From page 3

Staffing for the hospital's first year of operation will be coordinated by Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital in Pusan, South Korea.

The hospital is enlisting 10-member teams to serve three-month periods.

Each team will include a surgeon, internal medicine specialist, gynecologist or midwife, three nurses (including an anesthetist), a pharmacist, laboratory technologist, X-ray technician, and an administrator.

"We do not anticipate being able to use American volunteers initially," Brendle said. "But we hope that the opportunity would come later for some American involvement."

Baptist relief efforts coordinated with Iranian officials earlier this year yielded this "opportunity for extended ministry," Brendle noted. Even before the Southern Baptist feeding team's arrival, three doctors from the Wallace hospital traveled to Iran to survey medical ministry possibilities among displaced Kurds.

Toalston writes for FMB.

## Off the Record

Lauren and Chelsea are daughters of David and Marilyn Byrd, pastor and wife at Cuba, Ala. and granddaughters of Harlan and Alene Byrd of Lucedale.

Chelsea, 3, when threatened with a spanking, said she didn't want one, for it would be "bad for her reputation." Lauren returned home from Sunday School one day to give her version of the creation of woman: "God took a pork chop from Adam and made Eve."

A bakery owner puts a sign in his window, "The pastries in this window are non-fattening," and insists it's true: "As long as they stay in the window, they're non-fattening." — Earl Wilson

"Senator, a lot of your constituents can't understand from your speech last night just how you stand on the subsidy question."

"Fine! It took me seven hours to write it that way."

One of the things we have to be thankful for is that we don't get as much government as we pay for. — Charles F. Kettering

## Names in the news

Sandersville Church, Jones County, honored three deacons with lifetime service plaques, on Sept. 22. These men are Harvey Gray, who now resides in a local nursing home, A. Hardee, and J. C. Hardage who are still active in Sandersville Church.

Rhonda Hensarling and Tommy Quinn, students at William Carey College, are the recipients of the William Clawson scholarship for church-related vocations students. The scholarship was established in 1987 by the Board of Ministerial Education of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Hensarling is a senior biblical studies major from Petal, and she is preparing for a career in missions. Quinn is a junior church music major from Marietta, Ga. He is presently minister of music at Perkinson Church in Perkinson.

W. A. Fordham will be honored Sunday, Nov. 3, in observation of his 30th anniversary at First Church, Petal. A special reception is planned at the church from 2-4 p.m. Joel Ray and Richard Miley, both of Hattiesburg, will be the guest speakers. Others on program will be former staff members, Wayne Ward, Gary Shows, and Gordon



Fordham

Alford. Activities will include "This is your life."

Lowell D. Ingram received the master of divinity degree on July 26 at New Orleans Seminary. A native of Duck Hill, he holds the bachelor of science degree from Mississippi State University. Ingram is pastor at Providence Church in Meadville.

Timothy Courtney was ordained a deacon at First Church, Florence, Oct. 13. His father, Dewey Courtney, is a deacon in the church. His great-uncle, M.A. "Chub" Courtney, and his grandfather, Bryan Courtney, were deacons in the church. His great-grandfather, S. T. Courtney, served as pastor of First Church, Florence from 1917-1924.

Preston Cooley was honored by Sandersville Church, Jones County, on Oct. 6. He received a plaque honoring 27 years of service as Sunday School director. Cooley is presently serving as church outreach director.

Lee Shaw of Pascagoula, mezzo-soprano, will present her senior recital Nov. 14, 8:15 p.m. in the Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. She is a student of Richard Joiner, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Shaw.

Kevin Crain of Florence, tenor, will present his junior recital Nov. 12, 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. Crain is the student of Gerald Claxton, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Crain.

Mississippi College Opera Workshop will present "An Evening of Opera Scenes" Nov. 19, 8:15 p.m. in the Aven Auditorium on campus. The workshop will include scenes from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" and "The Marriage of Figaro," in honor of the 200th anniversary of that composer's death. Assistant professor of music Cynthia Coleman is director of the workshop; Carol Joy Sparkman is accompanist.

NASHVILLE (BP) — Historic First Church of Nashville has called Dan Francis, 39, as pastor of the 2,600 member congregation. Francis, pastor of Central Church in Winchester, Ky., the past eight years, will begin the Nashville pastorate Nov. 10. He was elected by the congregation with a vote on Oct. 20 of 934-14.



Fagan

Alton Fagan has returned to Mississippi from Texas. He is available for a pastorate, interim, or supply. Fagan can be reached at 583-9653 or P. O. Box 173, Eastabuchie, MS 39436.

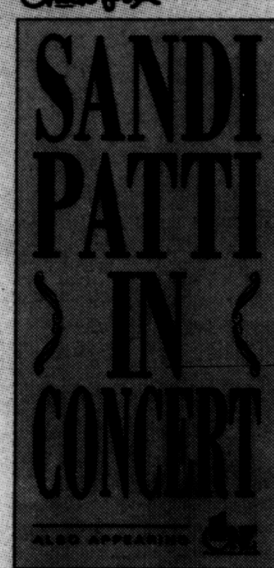


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—I. Garland McKee, Evangelism Director, MBC

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# Staff changes

Wyndale Church, Terry, has called Dwayne Doyle as minister of youth.



Doyle

He is a senior of Mississippi College. His previous place of service was Center Terrace Church, Canton. His parents are Alvin and Mary Doyle, missionaries in Nigeria. Charles Gentry is pastor.

First Church, Crystal Springs, has called Alan Wright as part-time minister of youth. He is a graduate of Mississippi College where he is employed as director of foundation relations. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Dennis Wright of Pascagoula.

Sandra Nobles has been called as director of childhood ministries at First Church, Tupelo. A native of



Nobles

Lamar County, she received her education at the University of Southern Mississippi and New Orleans Seminary. Nobles previously served at First Church, Decatur, Ala., and First Church, Gulfport.

Paul H. Leber Sr. has resigned the pastorate of High Hill Church, Neshoba County, to assume the pastorate at Oak Grove Church, also in Neshoba County.

Brenda and Richard Sullivan have been added to the staff of Byram

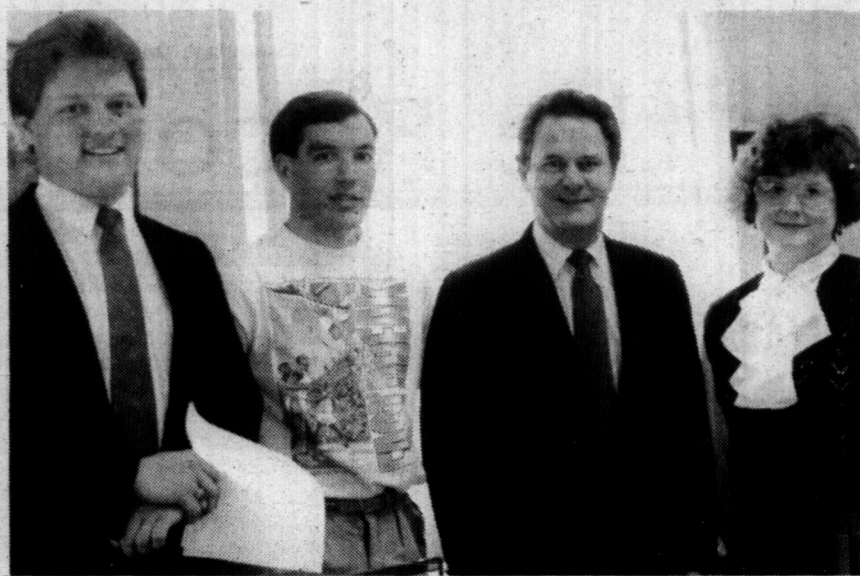
Church, Jackson, effective Oct. 2. He is minister of music and she is pianist. The Sullivans moved from First Church, Flowood. Richard, a native of Natchez, was educated at Clarke College, LSU, and Mississippi College. Brenda, a native of Eupora, received her education at Mississippi College.

Alton Hodnett has been called as pastor of Corinth Church, Leake Association. He formerly served as pastor of Deer Creek Church, Rolling Fork, Sharkey-Issaquena Association.

Cedar Grove Church, Marion Association, has called David Green as pastor. A native of Columbus, Green is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women and New Orleans Seminary. He goes from Broadmoor Church, Gulf Coast Association. He is currently working on his doctoral degree.

Wildwood, Laurel: Nov. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Hardy Denham, minister in residence and coordinator of church related vocations at William Carey College, evangelist; Jay Baucom, Wildwood Church, music; Mon-Wed., 11 a.m., lunch daily, and 7 p.m. nightly; John Cockrell, pastor.

Central Hill Church, Hamilton; Nov. 3-6; services each night at 7 p.m.; Bert Harper, pastor, West Jackson Street Church, Tupelo, message; Charles Sanderson, minister of music, Center Hill Church, music.



## Members of BME interview students

Johnny Walker, pastor of First Church, Winona, and Mrs. Ruth Courtney of Jackson, both members of the Board of Ministerial Education, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, visited Clarke College recently for the purpose of interviewing ministerial and religious education students who receive ministerial aid. Pictured, from left, are students Tim Parker, Philadelphia, and Jimmy Thornhill, Tylertown; Walker; and Mrs. Courtney.

## Revival dates

Trace Ridge, Ridgeland (Hinds-Madison): Nov. 3-7; Bill Jackson, Westmont Church, Birmingham, Ala., evangelist; Hubert Greer, Brookhaven, music evangelist; Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Thurs., noon and 7 p.m.; Ed McDaniel, pastor.

Metro Church, Jackson: Nov. 3-6; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Clift Brannon, Longview, Texas, editor of the Soulwinner's New Testament, evangelist; Cecil Harper, minister of music, Metro Church, music; Claude Townsend, pastor.

Immanuel, Hattiesburg: Nov. 3-6; Joe Durham, pastor, Northwest Church, Marietta, Ga., evangelist; Ken Hedgepeth, Immanuel Church, music evangelist; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; if interested in mid-day luncheon, call 264-2427.

Automatic Reply: A little girl was forever asking to be driven in the family car. After repeating requests the youngster was asked why she thought the Almighty had given her two feet. The reply came quickly: "One for the brake and the other for the accelerator." — Pulpit Digest

Thursday, October 31, 1991

## Homecomings

First, Coffeeville: Nov. 3; services, 9:45 a.m.; Les Hughes, Tylertown, pastor, Crystal Springs Church, and former member of First Church, Coffeeville, guest speaker; covered dish in fellowship hall, noon; Truman D. Scarborough, pastor.

Union Hall, Brookhaven (Lincoln): Nov. 3; Sunday School, 9:45; worship, 11 a.m.; Dennis Dunn, Pearl, guest speaker; dinner in fellowship hall; handbell choir, singing, 1:30; donations for cemetery fund; Tim Weisheim pastor.

Jericho, Baldwin: Nov. 3; Joe Ep-ting, former member, will preach at 11 a.m. service; covered dish in fellowship hall; 1:30 p.m., concert by Ronnie Cottingham, Lucedale, music evangelist; Neil Davis, pastor.

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6273-04	Barnes' Notes on the Old Testament & New Testament-14 vol.	\$298.50	\$108.50	6273-09	Twenty Centuries of Great Preaching (Fant/Pinson)-13 vol.	\$259.99	\$159.95	4691-05	Strong's Exhaustive Concordance	\$19.95	\$10.95
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# Just for the Record



**First Church, Nesbit**, held a missions recognition service on Sept. 29. Pictured, left to right, top row, are Jennifer Cummings, Paula Turner, Anessia Kendricks; bottom row, Tonya Derrington, Kelly Smith, Wendy Smith, and Ami Roberts.



**First Church, Holly Springs**, has recently begun a new ministry through the broadcast of its morning worship services over cable Channel 2. Shown above are, from left, Larry Whisenant; Robert Williams, choir director; Thad Moore, pastor; and John Powell at a recent dedication of the congregation's new hymnals.



**First Church, Grenada**, held a note burning for a \$400,000 paid in full note against church property on homecoming day, Oct. 8. The note burning culminated a short, intensive campaign to eliminate church debt to make more funds available for additional church programs under the leadership of the new pastor, Phil Weatherwax. Sunday School had a record high of 708 in attendance and an afternoon service was held featuring In One Accord, a vocal group from Memphis, Tenn.

Pictured, left to right, are Dewey Sanford, who travels the furthest to attend the church; R. C. Haley, member of debt retirement committee; Mary Jane Green, church finance committee chairman who also is the church member living closest to the church; Weatherwax; Gladys Field, 98, oldest church member; Ralph Petty, Sunday School director; Christopher Cooper, 9, youngest church member; and Earl McKay, chairman of deacons council.



**Oak Grove Church, Mendenhall**, recently held its annual Acteen recognition service, using the theme "Becoming." Pictured, from left, are Sharon Williamson, queen regent; Ginny Rainey, queen with scepter; Kim Blair, queen with scepter; Misty Blair, queen with scepter; and Shelley Smith, queen. A reception honoring the Acteens immediately followed the service. Brenda Williamson is Acteen leader.

The Jones County WMU Women under the leadership of Dell Scoper, associational WMU director, and Alma Barnes, president of East Mississippi Baptist State Women, Auxiliary to the East Mississippi Baptist State Convention, are cooperating for the World Day of Prayer, Nov. 3. Guest speaker for the event will be Alma Hunt, executive director of the Woman Missionary Union, auxiliary to Southern Baptist Convention. Miss Hunt will speak at First Church, Laurel, Sunday, Nov. 3 at 10:30 a.m. and at St. Elmo Church, Laurel, at 2 p.m.

**Carriage Hills Church, Southaven**, will celebrate its 25th anniversary on Nov. 3. Steve Howell, pastor of Mt. Zion Church, will be guest speaker for the morning service. Jack Childs, former Carriage Hills music minister, will lead the music. Lunch will be served following morning service. A special supervised meal will be provided for children through 3 years of age. Following the meal, there will be a time of special music and fellowship.

The youth of Cedar Grove Church, Marion Association, sponsored a fall festival and men's chili "cook-off" at the church on Oct. 19. Seven hundred dollars were donated to help pay off the church parsonage debt. David Green is pastor.

The recreation committee of New Hope Church, Foxworth, will sponsor a fall festival on Nov. 2. Smoked chicken at \$5 a plate will be served from 4 to 6 p.m. Contact the church office for tickets. Gospel and country music entertainment will start at 7 p.m. in the gym. Judy Ryals and Band; Brandon Slocum and Scott Cruise; Wayne, Linda and Henri Stringer; and more will be singing. Kent Campbell is pastor.

Byram Church, Jackson, will have a fall festival on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. James D. Whittington is pastor.

The Sunday School classes of Sandersville Church, Sandersville, set individual goals for the state mission offering. The combined goals amounted to \$1,234.50. Goals were met and exceeded, with a total offering to date of \$1,584.05.

Cowan Road Church, Gulfport, will celebrate its 12th anniversary on Nov. 10. Guest speaker will be chaplain Ed Holmes. Dinner will follow morning service in fellowship hall. Merrick Henry is pastor.

## PARKS

From page 3

its \$183.7 million missions program, which supports nearly 3,900 missionaries and their work in 121 nations.

The mission board based its newly adopted 1992 budget on the expectation Southern Baptists will dig \$4.6 million deeper into their pockets at Lottie Moon time this December. In approving the 1992 budget, trustees voted to use receipts over the offering's \$84 million goal to support a massive "Green Alert" project designed to capitalize on an emerging openness to the gospel in the former Soviet Union.

## Newly-endorsed chaplains bring total over 2,300

ATLANTA (BP) — Fifty-six newly-endorsed Southern Baptist chaplains were commissioned Oct. 20, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist endorsed chaplains to 2,306. They serve in all 50 states and 23 foreign countries.

Doyle Dunn, U.S. Navy chaplain, told the congregation at New Hope Baptist Church in Fayetteville, Ga., which hosted the commissioning service, chaplains are called by God to their ministries.

Cathy Tisher, chaplain at St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in Fort Smith, Ark., said lifestyle evangelism and discipleship describe her ministry. Tisher, the first non-Catholic chaplain to work at the Catholic medical facility, said she primarily works with patients and families in the emergency room and intensive care unit.

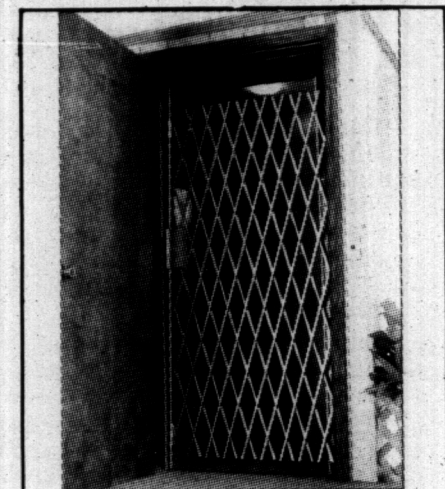
Most institutions which hire chaplains require chaplains be endorsed by the religious group they represent. The Home Mission Board is the Southern Baptist agency responsible for endorsing chaplains.

Though chaplains are not paid by Southern Baptists, "they are missionaries in every sense of the word," said HMB President Larry L. Lewis. "They are effective, faithful, fruitful soul-winners. They are counselors, ministering to people in their need."

The commissioned chaplains include 25 military, 17 health care, 10 institutional, and four business and industrial chaplains.

## Evansville, Coldwater, to observe 150th year

Evansville Church, Coldwater, will observe its 150th annual homecoming celebration on Nov. 3. Wayne King will be speaking. The Larry Bratton Family from Calhoun City will lead an afternoon service of singing. There will be a meal served in fellowship hall after the 11 a.m. worship service. Bernette Fielder is pastor.



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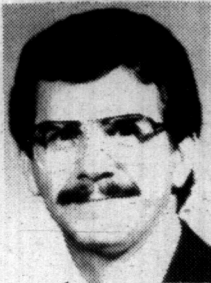
# Paul had a vision to take the gospel to all

By Kiely D. Young  
Acts 20

Our own Bill Causey has a vision for Mississippi Baptists that is similar to the vision Paul had for the Mid-East. Causey has challenged us to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. Paul wanted every person, Jew and Greek alike, to have the opportunity to hear the gospel message. Paul especially wanted every Christian in Ephesus to understand his responsibility in service to Christ.

Our motives must be pure (Acts 20:17-20).

Paul led the example. He continually emphasized the importance of lordship, and service that brought glory to Christ rather than self. First, Paul stressed the importance of humility, "Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations" (v. 19). Paul understood the role of a bond servant, one who is sold out to Jesus as a slave would be to his master. Paul did not see himself as a celebrity, nor did he see humility as a sign of weakness. He knew the price to be paid.



Young

## UNIFORM

Second, Paul knew the need for zeal and determination. "I kept back nothing profitable from you, but have showed you, and taught you publicly, and from house to house" (v. 20). Paul used every means possible to tell every person possible about Jesus. Just as he wrote to the church at Corinth, "I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Cor. 9:20).

Our message must be clear (Acts 20:21).

Paul spoke to the Jews and Greeks alike they must have "repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." We must communicate the basic gospel message to every person. Just as we speak to children using the hand to illustrate, the little finger represents God's love for us. The ring finger represents our sin, which separates us from God. The middle finger represents Jesus' death on the cross for our sins. The forefinger represents our repentance, our turning from sin. This combined with the thumb, representing our faith in Jesus for forgiveness, leads us to the point of salvation. As Paul spoke a clear message to both the Jews and Greeks, so must we speak a concise message to folks today.

The messenger must be in tune (Acts 20:22-38).

Peter Marshall said, "When the church is right, we will be a magnet." Paul sensed an urgency of the Holy Spirit to take the gospel message to every person in the region, but he knew his personal walk with Jesus must be certain for him to do so. Paul uses six picture graphics to explain that he would go to Jerusalem and die for Christ if necessary.

First, Paul saw himself as an account (v. 24). When he examined his assets and liabilities, he decided to put Jesus ahead of everything. Second, he saw himself as a runner who wanted to finish his course in joyful victory (v. 24). He said his life, his course, and his ministry were given to Christ. Third, Paul saw himself as a steward of the ministry he received from Jesus. The steward owns little, but possesses all. His sole purpose is to serve his master.

Next, Paul saw himself as a witness, "testifying of the gospel of the grace of God" (v. 24). Paul understood just how crucial the message was. Continuing, Paul pictured himself as a herald (v. 25), one sent from the King of Kings with a message of the kingdom. Finally, he saw himself as a watchman (v. 26): "I am pure from the blood of all men." This is a reference to the watchman of the walls in Ezekiel 3:17-21 and

33:1-9. The watchman was to stay awake, alert to warn of impending danger.

Paul also sensed danger in the future. He warned the leaders of "grievous wolves" around and among the flock, "speaking perverse things to draw the disciples away" (v. 29, 30). He also warned of dangers within that could weaken their faith. He pointed out five sins destructive to the spiritual life of spiritual leaders in the church. The first is carelessness, "watch and remember" (v. 31), don't forget the toil and tears that brought us forward. Next is shallowness (v. 32). We need a daily balance of prayer and the Word of God to maintain growth.

Third, covetousness is a sin we must avoid (v. 33). We must not be overcome by another man's prosperity. Fourth, we must not be lazy (v. 34). Paul knew the value of earning his own way while proclaiming the gospel. Finally, Paul warned about selfishness (v. 35). True ministry means giving, not getting. "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Paul closes this occasion on his knees praying for and weeping with his friends. His heart was with them. He had poured his life into them, now he must follow God's leading. As Paul was available, so should every Christian be.

Young is pastor, First, Greenville.

## Freedom and the weaker Christian — love vs. knowledge

By Randy W. Turner  
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

It is difficult for us to realize the close connection which existed between idol worship and daily life. One would wish that Christianity were as completely interwoven with our lives as heathen religions are to those of their devotees. Paul in this passage was dealing with the pressing case of conscience, which divided the Corinthian church, as to whether a Christian could join in the usual feasts or sacrifices. The long way around is sometimes the shortest way home. The apostle begins far away from the subject at hand by running a contrast between knowledge and love but his contrast is relevant to his purpose.



Turner

I. Love superior to knowledge (8:1-3). The first principle laid down by Paul is the superiority of love over knowledge. Paul acknowledges the intelligence of the Corinthian people but he follows that admission by a sudden, sharp comment in verse 2. Swift as the thrust of a spear comes flashing, "Knowledge puffs up." Puffed up things are swollen by wind

## BIBLE BOOK

only and the more they are inflated, the hollow and emptier they are, and such a sharp point as Paul's saying shrivels them.

Paul's statement is not meant to assert that this is always the result of knowledge but it plainly states that it is the usual result of knowledge that is unaccompanied by love. It is a sad result of superior intelligence that so often leads to conceit and to a false estimate of the worth and power of knowing. It also leads at times to an insolent contempt and cruel disregard of those who do not have the same knowledge.

Paul's dictum has been only too well confirmed by experience. "Love edifies" or builds up (8:1). Love to God and not the simple emotion of love without reference to its object is opposed to knowledge, for love so directed is the foundation of all excellence, of all real love to men. Love to God is not the antithesis of true knowledge, but it is the only victorious antagonist of the conceit of knowing. Paul says in verse 3, the man who loves God "is known of him" instead, as we might have expected, "knows him." The latter is true, but the statement in the verse puts more strongly the thought of man's being an object of God's care.

II. God superior to idols (8:4-6). The fundamental truth of Christianity, that there is one God who is revealed and works through Jesus Christ, was accepted by all the Corinthians. Paul states it here, broadly denying that there were any objective realities answering to the popular conceptions and asserting that all Christians recognize one God, the Father from whom the universe has origin and to whom we, as Christians, especially belong. There is one Lord, the channel through whom all divine operations of creation, providence, and grace flow, and by whose redeeming work we Christians are endowed with our best life.

If the believer was fully convinced of these truths he could partake of the sacrificial feast without danger to himself and without either sanctioning idolatry or being tempted to return to it. On this ground there seems to be absolutely nothing wrong with eating meat offered to idols. If there were no other considerations the answer to the question of conscience would be wholly in favor of the less scrupulous sanction. But there is something better than knowledge, namely love and love's decision must be the main consideration for a judgment that is in evidence.

III. Proper attitude toward the weak (8:7-13). Therefore, in the remainder of the chapter, Paul dwells on loving regard for brethren. Christian

men are bound to restrict their liberties so that they shall not tempt weaker brothers onto a path which they cannot walk without stumbling (v. 10). What is harmless to us may be fatal to others and if we have led them to it, their blood is on our hands. It is a great sin to tempt weaker, uninformed Christians to thoughts of acts which their ignorance or weakness cannot entertain to do without damage to their relationship with Christ.

There is much need for taking that truth to heart in these days. Paul disarmed those in Corinth who were ready to complain against the proposal to restrict their freedom because of other's weaknesses by turning suddenly to his own conduct (v. 13). They would at least be silenced and might be stimulated to like noble resolution by Paul's example.

The principle plainly laid down here is as distinctly applicable to many modern questions. No one can doubt that "moderation" in their use by some tempts others to use which soon becomes fatally immoderate. The church has been robbed of many promising members through that means. How can a Christian man cling to a "moderate" use of questionable indulgences and run the risk of destroying by his example a brother for whom Christ died?

Turner is pastor, Parkway Church, Natchez.

## Lessons of mercy, love, discipline from the past

By Don Dobson  
Deuteronomy 4:33-40

The old saying, "If we don't learn from the past, we are doomed to repeat it," is often said with a negative emphasis. Certainly, there are events in our past that we would not want to repeat my eleventh grade geometry class at Purvis High. Why take geometry three times?

However, there are some wonderful and positive lessons that spring forth from all of our pasts.

In this week's lesson, we will look at several needed lessons. Lessons that we as believers need to learn and learn well. Today, as we see these lessons, we notice that the history of God's dealings with his people teaches us to place our faith in him alone and obey his commands through the history of Deuteronomy we learn.

I. The lesson of God's mercy (vv. 33-35). God has reminded Israel of one of his powerful attributes: mercy. If God is anything, he is a merciful God. He reminds Israel that they have come upon the living God, they have heard him speak, and yet they are still alive. God does this to simply tell Israel that they have come

## LIFE AND WORK

across the holiness of Yahweh, and he has allowed them to live.

God does the same to us. When we encounter the merciful and living God of creation, we meet him in all our sinfulness. Yet, he allows us to live. The mercy of God sees more than our sin. He abhors our sin, to be sure, but he also sees the potential and worth of the sinner. We call this grace.

II. The lesson of God's discipline (v. 36). Football season is in full swing. If you listen long enough to coaches, you will likely hear them mention the word discipline. Discipline is important to all of us. It simply means strict and regular training. Discipline should be used to correct a less than accepted behavior or attitude.

God told Israel that he had to correct such behavior. So it is with us. The lesson from the past tells us that God loves us because he disciplines us.

III. The lesson of God's love (vv. 37-38). Moses reminds the people of Israel that God loves them. He tells them that because of this great love, and for no other reason, God brought them out of bondage.

Is this enough of a reason? I think so. For

what other reason does God need to give us good things? Love motivated God to create this world. Love motivated God to send his only Son. Love motivates God to forgive us of our sins.

Just as Israel needed to learn the lesson of love, so do we. For some unknown reason, most have the idea that God is waiting around the corner to mug us. He knows that we have sinned and thus, wants to hurt us. How perverted is this idea and concept of a loving God! God truly loves us. Please be reminded of this as you look at the cross of Calvary.

IV. The lesson of faith and obedience (vv. 39-40).

As we notice the lessons from the past we, like Israel, have an opportunity to respond in faith. Moses said that we should obey the statutes and laws of God. You and I are faced with a myriad of choices each and every day. However, no choice will ever be as important as choosing to follow God. This is direct evidence of our willingness to obey God. This is faith. This is obedience. This is proper.

As we look at the past, let us also learn. Let us learn not from a fear of being "doomed," rather from a hope of being what God has called us to be.

Dobson is pastor, Collins Church, Collins.

**CHURCHES GROW, FEED REFUGEES AS LIBERIA AWAITS PEACE:**  
MONROVIA, Liberia (BP) — Baptist churches in Liberia's capital are growing — and aiding refugees — despite an elusive peace settlement of the west African nation's two-year civil war. New Jerusalem Baptist Church in Monrovia has grown from about 40 to 190 members in the last few months, reported missionary Bradley Brown, from Marietta, Ga. Part of the growth has resulted from a Southern Baptist-sponsored program that has fed more than 47,000 Liberian refugees since February. One of the food distribution centers is based at New Jerusalem Church.



# capsules

**HMB, FMB SWAP MISSIONS WORK, PROPERTY IN PANAMA, GUAM:** ATLANTA (ABP) — The Home Mission Board deeded property it owns in Panama to the Panama Baptist Convention and accepted responsibility for missions work in Guam, Micronesia, and the Mariana Islands during its fall board meeting Oct. 8-9. Board members adopted a 1992 budget of \$84.7 million, an increase of 5.2% over the 1991 budget of \$80.5 million.

**CARLISLE DRIGGERS WILL BE RECOMMENDED FOR S.C. POST:** COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — B. Carlisle Driggers will be nominated as executive secretary-treasurer of the General Board of South Carolina Convention. If elected, he will succeed Ray P. Rust, who will retire Feb. 29, 1992. Driggers, 54, has been executive assistant to Rust since 1990. His nomination will be voted on during the state convention's annual meeting Nov. 12-13 in Greenville. The 85-member general board acts for the state's largest religious organization when it is not in annual session. Driggers is a native of Hartsville, S.C. He is a graduate of Mars Hill College and of Carson-Newman College. He earned both the master of divinity and master of arts degrees in Christian education from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. He earned the doctor of ministry degree from Pittsburgh (Pa.) Theological Seminary. He completed clinical pastoral education at Weston (W.V.) State Hospital, and received certification in church finance and administration from Emory University.

**NEW ORLEANS SEMINARY EXPERIENCES RECORD ENROLLMENT:** NEW ORLEANS (BP) — New Orleans Seminary began its 74th year with the largest student enrollment the school ever has experienced, an increase of 6% over last year's enrollment. Men and women from 36 states and 10 foreign countries make up the current student body for NOBTS's main campus and its ten extension centers.

**FEDERAL JUDGE SAYS IDAHO CONSTITUTION CANNOT BE USED TO FORBID BIBLE CLUBS:** BOISE, Idaho (EP) — The Idaho Constitution cannot be cited as a reason to outlaw Bible clubs in the state's public schools, a federal judge ruled in a case brought by Rutherford Institute attorneys. U.S. District Judge Marion J. Callister of Boise held that the Equal Access Act, a federal law protecting student religious clubs, takes precedence over any conflicting church-state provisions of the Idaho Constitution. In a 12-page opinion released Tuesday, the judge said the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause "prohibits states from using their own constitution to block federal law." The case began last year when three ninth-graders from Twin Falls — Ellen Hoppock, her sister Patricia Hoppock, and Sheila Slaughter — sought permission to form a Bible club at Robert Stuart Junior High School. School officials denied the students' request, claiming that the Idaho Constitution is stricter about separation of church and state than is the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, school officials asserted, the Equal Access Act does not apply in the state of Idaho.

**JERRY CLOWER HONORED BY LIBERTY BOWL:** MEMPHIS (Oct. 15, 1991) — Grand Ole Opry star and MCA recording artist Jerry Clower has been selected as the 1991 recipient of the Liberty Bowl's Distinguished Service Award, it was announced today. Clower, whose homespun humor has won world-wide acclaim, will be honored at the annual Liberty Bowl luncheon Dec. 28. Clower also will toss the coin for the kickoff of the 33rd annual Liberty Bowl game, Dec. 29. The award, presented since 1972 when Notre Dame coach Frank Leahy was the recipient, is given annually to an individual who has excelled in his or her profession.

**OPERATION RESCUE REVEALS PLANS FOR YEAR AHEAD:** WASHINGTON (BP) — Baton Rouge, La., or Little Rock, Ark., will be the 1992 target in Operation Rescue's new strategy to focus its anti-abortion efforts on moderately sized cities in the United States. The activist, pro-life group also plans grass-roots activities in many cities in November; rescues in Washington in January; and efforts at the sites of the national conventions of both political parties next summer, Operation Rescue officials announced at a press conference Oct. 16.

**VIRGINIA BUDGET PROPOSES FUNDS FOR RICHMOND SEMINARY:** RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Virginia Baptists could become the first state convention officially to allocate money for a new moderate-conservative seminary if their proposed 1992 budget is approved in November. The proposed \$16.3 million budget of the Baptist General Association of Virginia includes \$25,000 for the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. Messengers attending the annual BGAV meeting Nov. 12-13 will consider the budget proposal, which is expected to draw considerable debate. "My biggest concern is that... it will increase fragmentation in our denominational life," said Maurice McCarthy Jr., pastor of Cambria Church in Christiansburg, Va. "By tying the BGAV to (the seminary) it widens the gap between some Virginia Baptists and others."

**GOSPEL PREACHED AT COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS:** MIHAJLOVGRAD, Bulgaria — About 70 people accepted Christ as Savior when two Baptist men preached from the steps of the Communist Party headquarters building in Mihajlovgrad, north of the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. Scottish Baptist Peter Barber preached and Southern Baptist missionary Bill Wagner gave his Christian testimony while young people from two Bulgarian Baptist congregations sang during the 90-minute service in the city square. Bulgarian Baptist leader Theodor Angelov translated. Several hundred people gathered to listen to the service. Angelov said it pleased him to preach from the steps of the building from which persecution was directed against Baptists for decades. Angelov's father, a pastor, was imprisoned for eight years after he was accused of being a spy. Christians suffered from intense persecution by the government during the communist years.

## Hattiesburg pastor heads for a church in the Caribbean

By Shannon T. Simpson  
"When you dare to do the unusual, you can trust God to do the incredible."

These words from author Chuck Swindoll have become a sort of motto for Randy Von Kanel, pastor of First, Hattiesburg.

The unusual he and his family will soon dare to do will be the acceptance of the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Grand Cayman. That's the Cayman Islands, in the Caribbean.

As a journeyman to the Caymans in 1978-80, Randy baptized his first convert there. He helped pour the concrete for the building that will now be his home church, and helped start a local band of high school age kids.

Randy worked with Herbert and Jackie Neely, missionaries still on Grand Cayman who will retire from the field in March.

Randy, wife Cindy, and children Landon, age 8, and Randa, 6, will leave for the Caymans after Christmas, and begin work at First, Grand Cayman, on Jan. 15, 1992. He will be the first pastor called and supported by the island congregation of 180 members.

About five years ago, the Von Kanel family talked of going back to the Caymans as career missionaries, but those plans never panned out. "At that time in our lives, we decided it was not God's will. I didn't expect to be called there now. We were just minding our own business," Randy laughs.

The leap of faith required in such a move will lie in being the first pastor of the first Baptist church there, says Randy. Faith is also a prerequisite for a move "out of the mainstream of SBC life. But we don't always have to move to bigger churches," Randy says. "If I can be a model of simple... commitment to being available to God, then I've done the right thing."

But the "rightness" of the move was confirmed in two ways: "We saw the need, and realized our gifts fit; and our own excitement about what God could do through us there."

## Importance of women

By Ronald Bishop

The women likewise must be serious, no slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things (1 Timothy 3:11).

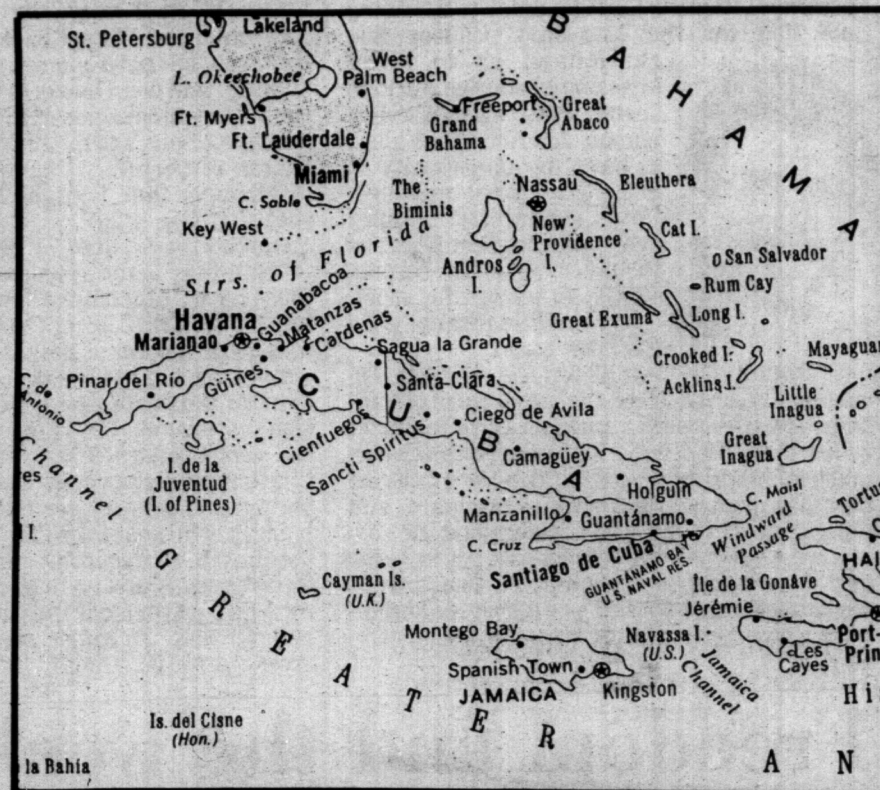
Many churches have recently gone through the process of electing deacons for the new church year. In conjunction with this exercise, many have given emphasis to the passage in 1 Timothy outlining qualifications of pastors and deacons. Imbedded in that section is a verse that is of special interest to women Christians, for it highlights their important place within the church.

Many Christians have interpreted the women in this passage to be the wives of deacons. Others see them as a separate group of leaders. Usually the word translated "women" is understood as "wives" when it is accompanied by a possessive pronoun. In this verse the word stands alone and probably should be translated "women."

The importance of women in the early church, as well as in the modern church, cannot be overestimated. Though Jesus called fishermen to be his apostles, women figured prominently among the followers. A woman anointed Jesus while an apostle criticized her. A Syro-Phoenician woman expressed more faith than Jesus had found in Israel. A Samaritan woman helped to bring the men of Sychar to Jesus. The apostles fled from the garden, leaving women to observe the crucifixion. Though Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus began the embalming process, it was left to the women to complete it. Their willingness to serve set them in place for the great discovery of the empty tomb. Other prominent women helped to direct the life of the early church: Priscilla helped to instruct Apollos; Lydia hosted Paul and his entourage in Philippi; and Phoebe was a deaconess highly regarded by Paul.

Both from the scriptures and from present-day experience, thoughtful Christians must admit the value of women in the church. It is fitting that, as he gave advice on the selection of pastors and deacons, Paul gave counsel concerning the selection of women leaders in the church. Their temperance, faithfulness, and proper use of their gifts are crucial to our life.

Bishop is pastor of Salem Church, Collins.



The Cayman Islands are located directly south of Cuba, and northwest of Jamaica. The main industries of the Cayman Islands are banking and tourism.

The couple's excitement stems from the challenge of working among people with a less traditional pattern of worship. "We'll have the freedom to instigate a contemporary style of worship, integrating Caribbean music into Bible choruses and choir," Randy explains.

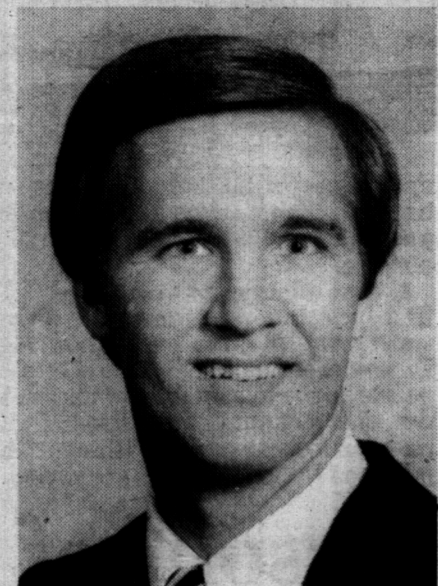
Other practices of the congregation include a different order of Sunday worship, and the structure of the mid-week prayer meeting, both of which Randy says he will not want to change much.

There are still some ambivalent feelings about leaving family, friends, and a growing church in Hattiesburg, but Von Kanel says he is still committed to accepting the call.

"It's not like we're moving halfway around the world," he says. "It will be about like living in southern Florida, and we'll be able to get home

(to Mississippi) about twice a year."

In response to a question about possible skepticism from people who might see the move as an escape to the good life, Randy says: "I have a desire to be and do what God wants me to do. I'm willing to do the unusual. I call it being available."



Randy Von Kanel

Baptist Record

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